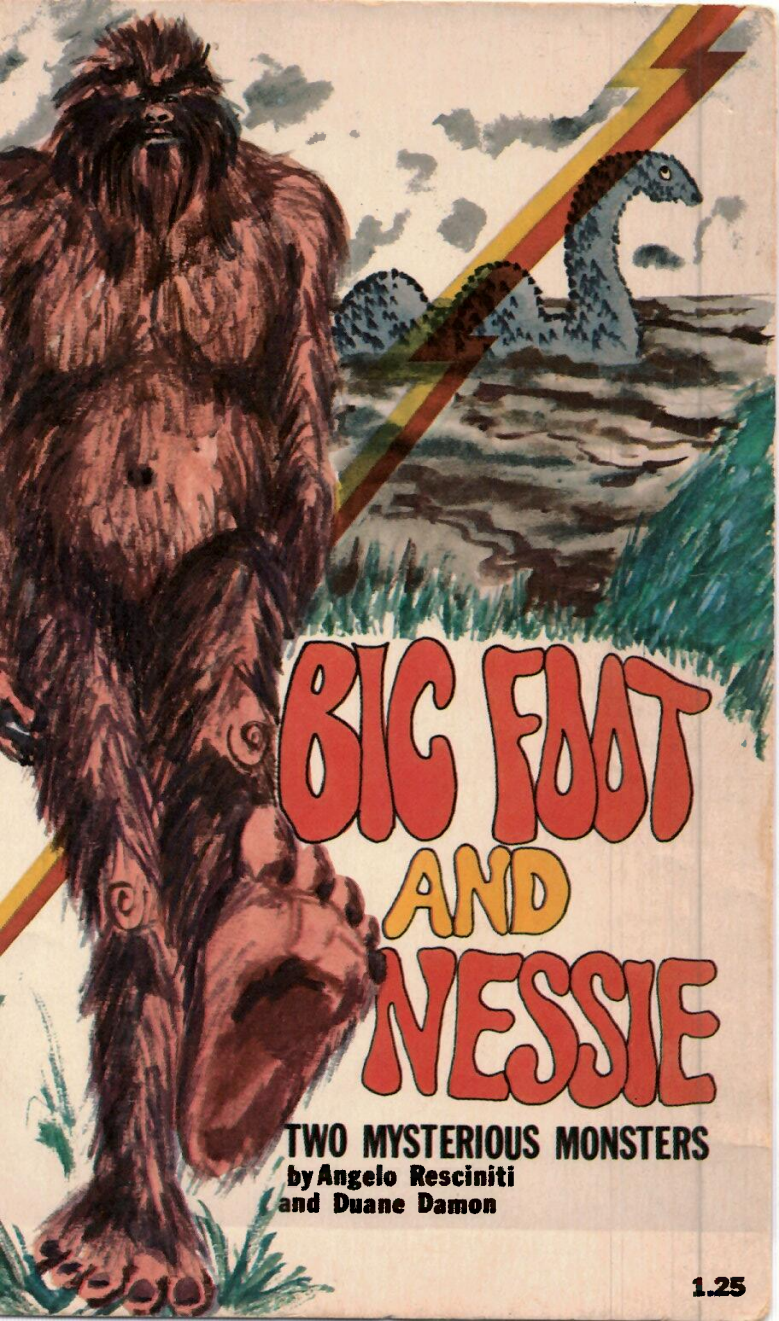




BIG FOOT AND NESSIE

TWO MYSTERIOUS MONSTERS

**by Angelo Resciniti
and Duane Damon**

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Bigfoot and Nessie

Two Mysterious Monsters

**by Angelo Resciniti
and Duane Damon**

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**IN THE MOUNTAINS AND WOODS
IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.....**

There's a monster on the loose. The giant stands eight feet tall and weighs hundreds of pounds. The creature walks on two feet, just like a human being. The monster is covered with hair from head to toe. Hundreds of the giant's footprints have been found. It has left a path of frightened people in its wake. Some call it dangerous. Some call it friend. Everyone calls it Bigfoot.

IN THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS.....
There's a monster in the dark waters of Loch Ness.

Some have seen her as a huge, black hump moving across the loch. To others she is an enormous gray creature with a long, graceful neck and tiny head. To the people of Scotland she is "the Beast". The world knows her as the legendary Loch Ness Monster, "Nessie".

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Chapter One

The Chase

Eight teenage boys from Washington State will never forget the day and night of August 4, 1969. For it was then that they had a meeting with Bigfoot.

The boys were camping in the mountains near Club Lake. They pitched their tents. Two of the boys — Mark Meece and Marshall Cabe — split from the group. They took a long hike into the mountains.

Meece, 16, and Cabe, 14, headed back for camp in the late afternoon. From a distance they saw a large, hairy animal. At first they thought it was a bear. "But then it raised an arm and made a motion like a human, for us to come toward it," said Meece. "Then it began to move and two others appeared from behind it."

Meece and Cabe started running back to camp. The three creatures came right after them. The boys ran as fast as they could. The creatures ran faster. Only 50 yards separated the boys from the giant animals. That's only half a football field. Meece and Cabe shouted for help. They thought it was all over.



Teenage boys were chased by a trio of Bigfoot.

Suddenly, the creatures were gone. The boys raced back to camp. They told their friends what had happened. The day was too far gone for them to break camp. They had to spend the night in the wilderness.

The boys built a large fire as darkness fell. They huddled around the flame. They sang songs. No one wanted to sleep. Then they heard the noise. According to one of the campers, it sounded "like a woman screaming in panic, but more shrill." Three times during that long night they heard those screams.

The weary adventurers broke camp the next morning. Word of their encounter spread all over Snohomish County. A search party went into the forest around Club Lake. But no trace of Bigfoot was found.

Meece and Cabe were positive that the creature was not a bear. Meece said the hairless faces were "more like human than an ape, with foreheads that dipped in and out."

And just like that, Bigfoot fever hit the state of Washington.

Chapter Two

What is Bigfoot?

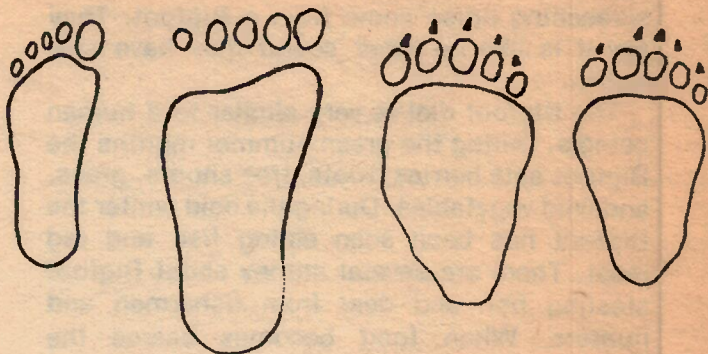
The word "Bigfoot" has been around since 1958. But the creature carrying the name has been around for centuries.

The Hoopa Indians of California tell ancient stories about the "O-mah." Indian tribes near Vancouver Island in Canada talk of the "Seeahtik." Other Indian names for the creature are "toki-mussi" and "gilyuk."

The Salish Indians of British Columbia, Canada, coined another famous name for the monster. "Sasquatch" is the Salish name for "hairy giant." That describes Bigfoot pretty well.

Whatever the name, the descriptions of Bigfoot are always the same. Bigfoot is six to ten feet tall. Its weight is 300 to 700 pounds. Bigfoot is covered with hair from head to toe. The hair color ranges from pitch black to dirty white. The only hairless areas are around the eyes and the palms of the hands and soles of the feet.

The feet, of course, have made Bigfoot famous. Thousands of the footprints have



From left to right: size 11 human foot, 16-inch long Bigfoot print, Alaskan brown bear hind foot print, Grizzly bear hind foot print. Notice the similarity between human and Bigfoot prints.

been photographed in the last fifty years. Hundreds of the prints have been "cast". That's done by pouring wet plaster into the footprint and allowing it to dry.

Bigfoot prints look just like human footprints. But they are much, much larger. Most of them are from 14 to 18 inches long. They range from five to eight inches wide. The creatures have five toes straight in a line across the foot. Bigfoot prints have been found pressed into mud, dust, sand, and snow. The prints are much deeper than human prints. That shows how much more a Bigfoot weighs.

Bigfoot has also become famous for its scream. Many people have heard a shrill,

screeching noise come from a Bigfoot. They say it is like no other sound they have ever heard.

The Bigfoot diet is very similar to a human being's. During the green summer months the Bigfoot eats berries, roots, tree shoots, grass, and wild vegetables. During the cold winter the Bigfoot has been seen eating fish and red meat. There are several stories about Bigfoot stealing fish and deer from fisherman and hunters. When food becomes scarce the Bigfoot has been known to rummage through garbage cans looking for a meal.

The Bigfoot is considered a nocturnal animal. That means it is most active in the night. Most of the sightings have taken place in the early evening and at night.

The hairy creatures usually travel alone. Almost all of the meetings have been with a single Bigfoot. Many more male Bigfoot have been seen than female Bigfoot. Very few young have been seen.

The Bigfoot belongs to North America. Footprints and sightings have been reported from all over the United States and Canada. Most of the sightings come from the Pacific Coast. California, Washington State, and British Columbia (Canada) claim the most Bigfoot sightings. Other sightings have been reported from Idaho, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Oregon, and even Florida.

The small town of Willow Creek, California,

claims the title "The Gateway to Bigfoot Country." People who drive into town along Highway 299 meet a strange sight at Highway 96. An eight-foot statue of Bigfoot stands at the junction of the two roads. Bigfoot specialist Jim McClarin carved the statue from the trunk of a giant redwood tree. The statue is a major tourist attraction.

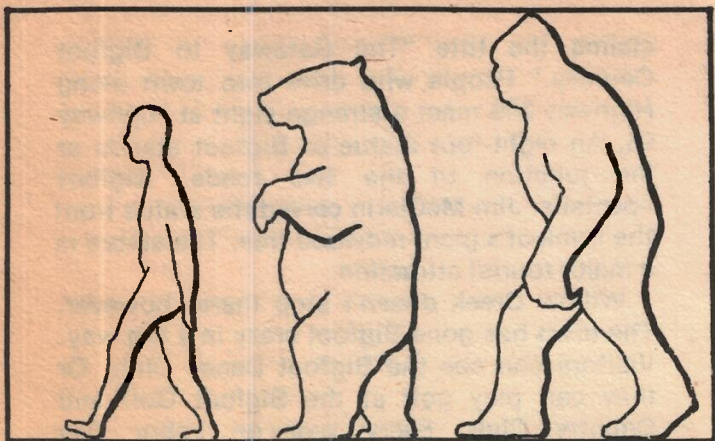
Willow Creek doesn't stop there, however. The town has gone Bigfoot crazy in a big way. Visitors can see the Bigfoot Dance Club. Or they can play golf at the Bigfoot Golf and Country Club. Every year on Labor Day weekend thousands visit Willow Creek for Bigfoot Daze, a huge celebration.

Yes, America claims Bigfoot all for its own. But America cannot claim every hairy creature in the world.

The Abominable Snowman was the first famous monster on two legs. The Yeti, as it is often called, has been seen in the snow-covered mountains of Asia. Footprints 11 to 15 inches long have been found in the snow. The Yeti is known for its bright white hair.

Mono Grande is the name of South America's two-legged monster. Footprints of some 21 inches in length have been found on the damp banks of rivers.

Many scientists feel that Bigfoot, the Yeti, and Mono Grande are related. All stand on two feet, reach heights of eight feet, have human-type footprints, and are covered with



An 8-foot tall Bigfoot (right) compared to a 7-foot tall brown bear and a 6-foot tall human male.

hair. There is a simple explanation for the creatures being kinfolk. Many centuries ago there were land bridges connecting Siberia and Alaska. Yeti could easily have walked over to North America and down the coast to the Pacific Northwest. Another group could have traveled down the United States, through Mexico, and into South America.

Other scientists believe that there is no such thing as a Bigfoot or Yeti or Mono Grande.

Most of these scientists believe that large brown bears are mistaken for the hairy beasts called Bigfoot. Every summer bears shed hair from their faces and paws. Bears can also

expand their chests so they look almost human. Most Bigfoot sightings take place during the summer months of July, August, and September.

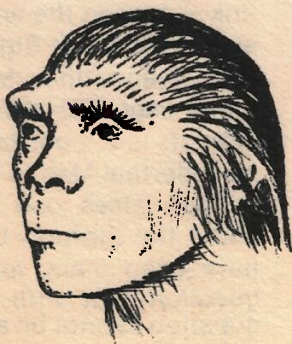
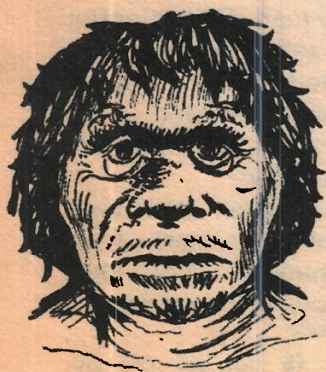
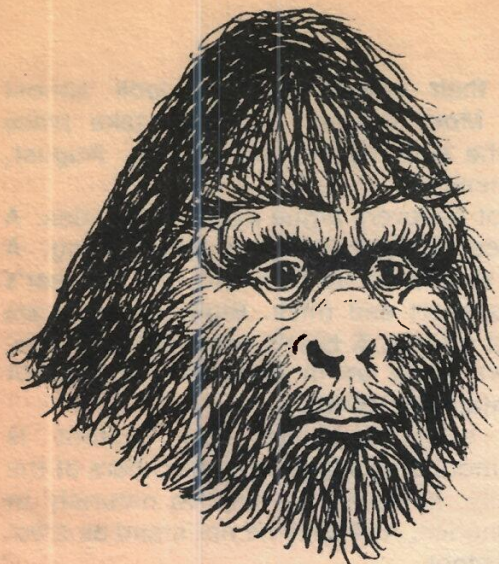
Bigfoot believers argue against this idea. A bear uses all four limbs to move along. A Bigfoot stands on its own two feet. A bear's arms are short and thick. Bigfoot's arms are long and strong. A bear's toes end in claws. The claws show up in footprints. A Bigfoot print contains no claws.

Other scientists claim that Bigfoot is nothing more than a large ape. Members of the ape family, however, do not live naturally in North America. And apes do not stand as erect as the Bigfoot.

Some scientists do believe in the Bigfoot. Some even claim that Bigfoot is the "missing link" between the apes and man. One scientist even claims that Bigfoot is related to Java Man and Neanderthal Man. Both existed many, many centuries ago and were believed to be extinct. Is it possible, asks this scientist, for Neanderthal Man to have survived?

That raises one of the biggest questions about the Bigfoot. Is it man or animal? There have been many long arguments about this question. But until a Bigfoot is captured the question cannot be answered.

The search for Bigfoot is carried on by thousands of people every year. At least three major expeditions have sought the Bigfoot. Ron Olson led the North American Wildlife



Bigfoot (top) is often related to Neanderthal Man (left) and Java Man (right). Neanderthal Man and Java Man are assumed to be extinct. Is it possible that one group survived—and is now known as Bigfoot?

Research Association. Texas oil millionaire Tom Slick paid for the Pacific Northwest Expedition before his death. Robert Morgan of Miami, Florida, organized the American Yeti Expedition.

None of these groups have found physical evidence of Bigfoot's existence. There are several reasons for this failure. Bigfoot country is heavily wooded land on dangerous mountain slopes. Rainfall washes away evidence. And Bigfoot country itself is thousands of square miles in size. Bigfoot operates at night, probably hiding out in caves during the day.

There is another simple reason for the failure in finding Bigfoot. It's quite possible that Bigfoot doesn't **want** to be found. Most encounters with Bigfoot ended with the creature taking off into the woods.

Perhaps Bigfoot doesn't want to drink coffee with human beings. There are few recorded cases of a Bigfoot hurting a human being. The biggest complaint of most folks is that the Bigfoot needed a bath pretty badly.

Bigfoot prints continue to excite whole new generations of believers. In 1978, the University of British Columbia in Vancouver sponsored a meeting on **Humanoid Monsters: Sasquatch and other Phenomena**. Over 100 scientists and Bigfoot experts attended the meetings. They exchanged photographs of Bigfoot prints. They viewed two movies of Bigfoot in the wilds. Mostly they argued about

the very existence of Bigfoot.

Dr. John Napier, an expert on man-like animals, believes that Bigfoot exists. He said that the "North American Bigfoot or Sasquatch has a lot going for it. Too many people claim to have seen it, or at least to have seen footprints, to dismiss its reality out of hand. To suspect that hundreds of people at worst are lying or, at best, are deluding themselves is neither proper nor realistic."

Another scientist isn't sure if Bigfoot exists, but is anxious to find out. W.C. Osman Hill of Emory University said, "If such an animal exists, and is caught, it could well be one of the most important finds in history."

Chapter Three

Early Reports

The first record of a meeting with Bigfoot came in 1811. David Thompson, an explorer and trader, was crossing the Rocky Mountains. He was in Jasper, Alberta, in Canada. One day he came across giant footprints in the snow. He measured the prints. They were 14 inches long and eight inches wide. The toes were four inches long. He recorded all of this information in his diary. Later, Thompson published a book entitled **Narrative**. The book included his account of the first meeting with Bigfoot.

The next report was published in "The Battle Record" newspaper on November 5, 1870. A man was alone on a hunting trip in the Coast Range, south of San Francisco, California. The hunter set up camp and built a fire each day before going shooting. Each evening when he returned to camp he found the ashes of the fire spread all over the place. Nothing else was touched. *After a couple of days of the same, he decided to wait near camp and see what was happening.* He was excited because he had

seen human prints in wet sand nearby. The prints were "bare, and of immense size," according to the man.

The hunter hid in the bushes and waited. He heard a whistling noise. Then he saw a creature approach his campsite. The creature was just five feet tall, with broad shoulders, short legs, a long body, and a head too small for its size. The creature was entirely covered with dark brown hair.

The man watched. The creature whistled and walked around the fire. Finally the beast reached in and tossed the ashes all over the place. Then it just walked away. The hunter found more footprints before breaking camp and going home.

A Bigfoot was actually captured once, according to an 1884 report. The story was published in the July 4, 1884, issue of "The British Daily Colonist" newspaper. The publication served readers in British Columbia, Canada.

According to the article a train was travelling along the Fraser River between the towns of Lytton and Yale in British Columbia. The engineer saw a body lying across the tracks ahead of the train. He put on the brakes and stopped the train before it hit the body. Suddenly, the body sprang to life! Crewman saw a short, hairy creature climb into the rocks next to the train tracks. A number of men chased the creature across dangerous rock

ledges. Finally, a crewman dropped a heavy stone on the creature's head. The men carried the unconscious beast back to the train.

One of the men examined the creature. "Jacko," as the creature became known, was four-feet-seven and weighted in at 127 pounds. "Jacko" had one-inch-long black hair over its entire body, except for the hands and feet. The creature had long forearms. The examiner said "Jacko" was "something of the gorilla type." The only sound made by the creature was "half bark and half growl," according to the report.

"Jacko" was kept in a train car for the rest of the trip. He was fed berries and milk. When the train arrived in Yale, "Jacko" was put on exhibit. Later, "Jacko" was sold to Barnum and Bailey's Circus. But "Jacko" disappeared before he could be delivered to his circus home. The only Bigfoot ever captured had escaped and returned to its wilderness home.

Jack Dover had an unusual experience while hunting near the Klamath River in northern California. His meeting with Bigfoot was written up in "The Del Norte County Record" newspaper on January 2, 1886.

Dover was out hunting when he saw a huge, hairy creature near the river. The creature had long hair and short ears. It was yanking berries from bushes and eating them.

Dover aimed his rifle several times at the creature. But he couldn't bring himself to shoot. He said later that the creature looked

more human than animal. And Dover didn't want to be accused of murder.

Former President Theodore Roosevelt was a hunter and writer long before going into politics. His book, **Wilderness Hunter**, was published in 1893. In **Wilderness Hunter** Roosevelt tells the story of two hunters and their run-in with a mountain monster. The events took place in the 1840s.

A fellow named Bauman was camping and hunting with a friend near the Salmon River in Idaho. Each morning the men left camp to set beaver traps in and around the river waters. And each evening the men returned to find their campsite completely wrecked. One evening the hunters found a series of huge footprints leading away from their camp. They decided to break camp the very next day.

Bauman went off to collect the beaver traps. His companion stayed in the camp to break down the tents and prepare for their departure. Bauman found beaver in several of the traps. He spent much of the day skinning the beaver. By the time he finished it was late afternoon.

When Bauman returned to the campsite, he saw a thin thread of smoke rising from a small fire. All of the equipment was neatly piled up. His friend was lying on the ground, all beaten and bloody. The man's neck had been broken. There were four fang marks on his throat. And there were huge footprints all around.

Bauman grabbed his rifle and took off.

According to Roosevelt, Bauman vowed never again to return to Idaho's Salmon River.

One of the scariest Bigfoot incidents took place in the 1890s near the Chetco River in southern Oregon. A dozen loggers and their families were camping in tents by the river. They had had some trouble with bears. But that was nothing compared with what was to come.

One morning several of the men discovered huge human footprints near the camp. A few nights later the whole camp was awakened by eerie whistling and angry shrieks. The next morning more of the huge footprints were found.

Several men searched the area. They found that a pile of logs had been broken up. Logs which required three men to move them had been thrown about like matchsticks. Footprints led into the woods. The men found torn shrubbery and small trees that had been completely uprooted.

There were more screams that night. One of the men lit a torch, grabbed a rifle, and ran into the darkness. A few minutes later a group of men followed him. The first man came running back and collapsed in terror. He told the other men he had come upon a hairy creature. The monster was seven or eight feet tall, had yellow eyes, fangs, and hands like a man.

The camp was in an uproar all the next day. The men took turns on watch that night. Two

of the men decided to go after the creature. They carried a small lantern and loaded rifles.

The men found the creature. The people back in camp heard screams and shrieks and the sounds of gunfire. Then there was silence.

In a little while the other men went into the forest. They carried lanterns and torches and they fired their guns into the air. Soon they came upon the bodies of their two friends. The pair had been slammed against tree trunks and then torn to pieces. There were blood-stained footprints leading into the woods. No one volunteered to follow the wounded creature.

The logging camp was broken up the next morning. Professional hunters went into the forest in the days that followed. But no further trace of the creature was found.

Lumberman Mike King didn't like taking "no" for an answer. He wanted to log a certain area of Vancouver Island off the coast of British Columbia. But his Indian workers refused to work in that part of the forest. They said they were afraid of Sasquatch. King wanted to prove the Indians wrong. So early in 1901 he set off with a rifle and a backpack to explore the area.

Several days into the trip King crossed over a small hill. He saw a huge creature covered with brown fur squatting at the edge of a stream. He got the creature into the sights of his rifle. Then King noticed something strange. The "bear" he was about to shoot was washing

roots in the creek. Then the creature was stacking the roots in a neat pile on the bank. Bears just didn't do things like that.

King didn't shoot at the creature. He shouted at the beast. The creature growled at King and ran off on two feet, long arms swinging by its sides. King found large human footprints on the bank of the creek.

King returned to his main camp. He told the Indians about his run-in with the creature. And he promised to select other areas of Vancouver Island for logging.

A rather bloody Bigfoot incident took place in 1910. The MacLeod brothers were prospecting for gold in the Nahanni Valley of the Canadian Northwest Territories. For a long time no one heard from the two men. They were finally found, murdered. Their heads had been cut off. Sasquatch was blamed for the gruesome double murder.

The Nahanni Valley has since become known as Headless Valley.

A rather wild Bigfoot tale was printed in "The Seattle Times" newspaper in 1918. Apparently a Bigfoot attacked a prospector's shack in Mount St. Lawrence, Washington. The eight-foot-tall creature had some amazing powers. It was able to hypnotize people, use ventriloquism and become invisible, according to the story. The article called the creature "half-human, half monster."

Chapter Four

Kidnapped!

In 1924 lumberjack Albert Ostman decided to get away from it all for a vacation. An Indian guide led him into the mountains in a remote part of British Columbia. The Indian told Ostman tales of Sasquatch, the Canadian Bigfoot. The guide showed Ostman a trail into the wilderness at the head of Toba Inlet near Vancouver Island. The men parted company. Ostman headed alone into the mountains. He carried an 80-pound pack with food and utensils and sleeping gear. He also carried a rifle and a long sheath knife.

Ostman was after gold in the beautiful hills of northwestern Canada. Instead, he found the adventure of anyone's lifetime.

After a week the 30-year-old Ostman found a small valley containing a beautiful stream. He decided to pitch camp there for a few days.

Someone or something went through Ostman's camp while he was gone one day. Some dried fruit and pancake flour was missing. Ostman decided not to take any chances. That night he packed all of his



Albert Ostman said he was kidnapped by a family of four Bigfoot in 1924. He was carried away by one of them.

possessions into his sleeping bag. He kept the knife and rifle close at hand inside his bedroll. He fell asleep under the stars.

Suddenly Ostman snapped wide awake. Something was picking him up! Before he could move, Ostman was in the air. He felt himself being carried "inside my bag like a sack of potatoes, the only thing in sight being a huge hand clutching the partly closed neck of the bag."

The next three hours were extremely painful for Ostman. "I was all hunched down on the bottom of the sleeping bag and I couldn't move," he said. "I was sitting on my feet and my legs ached terribly. My sheath knife was underneath me and I couldn't get at it or I could have cut my way out."

Ostman, it appeared, was being lugged over the shoulder of some giant creature.

"When I was in that sleeping bag, though, I knew it was a Sasquatch that was carrying me," he said. "There was no other creature that could do it."

Finally, Ostman was dropped to the ground. Bruised and dazed, he crawled out of the sleeping bag. He was greeted with the most incredible sight of his life.

A family of four creatures stood watching him from a distance. The "old man" (Ostman's term) was eight feet tall and had a large hump on his back. The mother was seven feet tall and weighed nearly 600 pounds. The son, nearly

full-grown, was seven feet tall and nearly 300 pounds. The shy daughter was young and kept a good distance from Ostman.

Ostman said the creatures had powerful shoulders and long forearms. They had wide hands. The hands were hollowed out like scoops. The creatures were covered with hair except for the palms of the hands, soles of the feet, and an area at the upper part of the nose and around the eyelids.

About the older female, Ostman said, "She had very wide hips, and a goose-like walk. She was not built for beauty or speed."

Ostman realized that the creatures expected him to stay. He saw that he was trapped in a tiny valley. There was only one way out. And that was a ten-foot wide gap at the far end of the little valley.

Ostman took stock of the situation. He had enough food for another week. He had his knife and rifle. The creatures had not tried to harm him. He would wait and see.

Life set into a pattern for the next few days. The mother and son did the chores and food-gathering. The father and daughter kept watch over Ostman. The creatures ate grass and roots. Ostman cooked from his small supply of food. The creatures slept under rough home-made blankets. They were made out of strips of cedar bark that had been woven together. The "guest" slept in his bag beneath the stars.

The creatures never threatened to harm Ostman. Ostman, in turn, did not want to shoot at his "hosts." He wasn't sure if his rifle could do the job. He didn't want a wounded Bigfoot after him.

Finally, after six days, Ostman made his move. He tricked the "old man" into eating a whole box of snuff. Snuff is finely ground tobacco used in the nose or mouth. Snuff should not be swallowed. The "old man" went wild after swallowing the whole box of snuff. The Bigfoot rolled all over the ground. The creature's family ran over to help out their "old man." Ostman escaped during the confusion.

Ostman returned to civilization. He told no one about his meeting with Bigfoot. Ostman remained silent from 1924 until 1957. After 33 years he finally stepped forward. On August 20, 1957 he swore to his story before a Justice of the Peace in Ft. Langley, British Columbia. He was interviewed by Bigfoot experts and newspaper reporters. He became a celebrity. Ostman became known as the only man every to live with Bigfoot—and live to tell about it.

Scientists seemed to believe most of Ostman's story. Some worried about the eating habits of the creatures. Ostman said the Bigfoot ate only grass and roots. One scientist called it the "very poorest quality of low-energy food." The expert doubted that such huge creatures could survive on that diet.

One other question was asked over and over

again of Ostman. Why had he waited 33 years to tell his story?

"Who would have believed me?" he asked right back.

Chapter Five

Close Encounters

One of the scariest of the Bigfoot encounters took place in 1924. The meeting occurred near Mount St. Helens in Washington. That's in Skamania County, one of the main areas for Bigfoot sightings.

Fred Beck was one of a group of miners digging coal in the tree-covered mountains. One day he ran into a huge, hair-covered creature. Beck panicked. He fired three bullets in the Bigfoot's back. The dying creature fell over the edge of a giant cliff.

Beck returned with friends. They climbed to the bottom of the canyon in search of the creature's body. They found nothing. They figured that the fast-moving river had carried the corpse away.

The men returned to camp. Darkness fell. The miners locked themselves into the log cabin they had built. The cabin had no windows and only one door.

The attack began. Something pounded against the walls of the cabin. Heavy rocks banged against the roof. Something crawled

onto the roof and started pounding. Someone or something was trying to get at the men.

Beck and his friends knocked out some of the chinks between logs. They fired their rifles into the darkness outside. The attack continued. The cabin shook from the pounding. The men continued firing. The cabin filled with gunsmoke. The men began to get sick. The assault continued until dawn.

"The apes failed to break in," said one of the men later. But none of the men could say what had really attacked. There were no windows and they did not open the door all night long. The men agreed that there were at least two creatures involved.

The miners abandoned the mine and the cabin the very same day. News of the attack got out. Lawmen and reporters went out to the cabin. They found the building in a shambles. And they found hundreds of those huge footprints connected to Bigfoot.

"Whoever wants that mine and that cabin can have them," said one of the miners. "I wouldn't go back up there again for all the tea in China."

Another Bigfoot assault on a house took place in 1941. The Chapman family, Indians, lived in a house on a large piece of property near Ruby Creek. That's in Agassiz, British Columbia.

Jeannie Chapman heard the screams of her daughter Rosie coming from the back yard.

She ran out and saw a huge creature walking through a potato patch toward the house. The Bigfoot stepped over a four-foot-high fence without even breaking stride.

Mrs. Chapman grabbed her children and ran. The creature circled the Chapman home several times. It entered an outbuilding and turned over a barrel of salmon. The creature ate some of the fish, scattering fish heads and scales all over the building.

Then the creature went away. Jeannie Chapman and her children returned home. Huge footprints were everywhere. They were 18 inches long and eight inches wide. There were nearly five feet between prints.

Jeannie Chapman later said the creature was between eight and ten feet tall. The Bigfoot had dark hair covering its body. She said the creature had a very human face.

O. R. Edwards and Bill Cole went on a weekend hunting trip in the Siskiyou Mountains of northern California. This was during World War II. The two men had their own little war with a Bigfoot.

"I saw a large man-like creature covered with brown hair," said Edwards. "It was about seven feet tall and carrying in its arms what seemed like a man. I could only see legs and shoes. It was heading straight downhill on the run. I, of course, did not believe what I had just seen."

Edwards started to believe only seconds later. He looked around. There was no sign of

his friend. Bill Cole had disappeared.

Then Edwards saw two more of the creatures in the bushes. He heard a whistling scream. "I whirled around just in time to see a flash of something brown disappear behind the tree."

O. R. Edwards had seen quite enough. He did the logical thing. He headed for home.

Believe it or not, 20 years passed before the men got back in touch with each other. They exchanged letters.

"I guess I should have started looking for you," said Edwards in his letter. "I don't know why, but I didn't. Maybe I was afraid of the creature. Maybe I was afraid I'd find you dead."

"I don't think it carried me at all," said Cole in his letter. "I was conscious all the time. I didn't hurt any place." Cole added, "Neither of us has the guts to say what happened to us."

"Cole is the only man I know who has had physical contact with a giant," said Edwards. "There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that they exist. And I know they are extremely strong and very intelligent."

William Roe got a close look at a Bigfoot on an October Sunday in 1955. Roe was mountain-climbing alone on Mica Mountain, west of Jasper, Alberta, in Canada.

Roe suddenly came upon a Bigfoot grazing in the bushes. Roe hid himself and observed. He described a Bigfoot female between six and seven feet tall. The creature weighed nearly 300 pounds. Roe said the Bigfoot had dark brown,

silver-tipped hair growing all over its body. The creature had arms extending almost to the knees and a very short neck.

Roe watched silently as the creature moved to within 20 feet of his hiding place. The creature was eating by stripping leaves from branches with its teeth. "I was close enough to see that its teeth were white and even," he said later.

The creatures finally scented Roe. The Bigfoot calmly turned and walked away. As it left it made a noise that was "half laugh and half language," according to Roe.

Roe thought of shooting the creature. "I just couldn't do it," he said. "It looked so much like a human being that I knew I would never forgive myself if I killed it."

"I had never seen anything like it before," he added. "What it was that I saw will always remain a mystery to me."

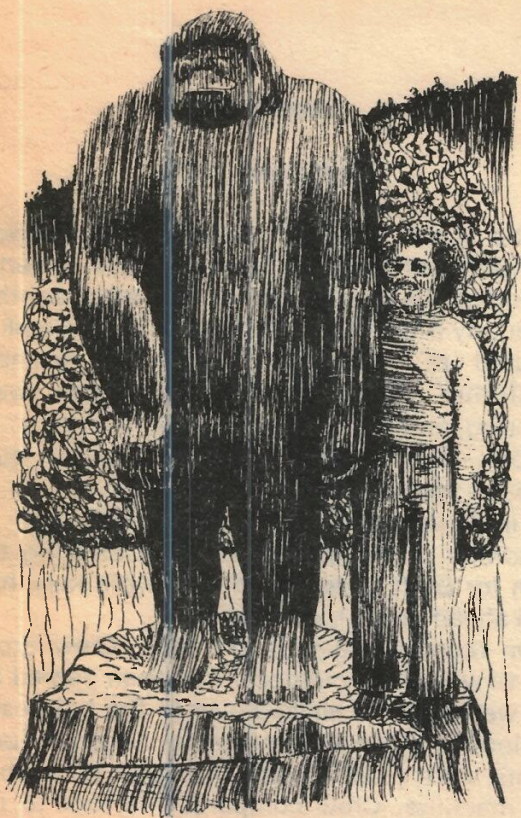
Chapter Six

Bluff Creek, 1958

The word "Bigfoot" became a household item across the United States in 1958. A series of incredible stories came one after another from tiny Bluff Creek, California. Bluff Creek is located in Humboldt County, in northern California. Road construction crews were clearing land in places where no man had gone before. Bluff Creek Road was to be built through the heart of Bigfoot country.

Bulldozer driver Jerry Crew was one of hundreds of workers involved in clearing the path for Bluff Creek Road. His work kept him well ahead of the road crews.

On Monday, August 27, 1958, Crew drove out to where his bulldozer had been parked for the weekend. He walked over to the bulldozer. He looked down at the ground. Gigantic footprints were pressed into the earth all around his machine. Crew compared his foot to the prints in the earth. They looked twice as big as his. Crew pressed his 165 pounds against the ground. His print was barely visible. The huge footprints were pressed deep into the dirt.



This eight-foot statue of Bigfoot stands near Willow Creek, California. Next to Bigfoot stands Jim McClarin who carved the statue.

Crew drove back to the main work camp to gather crew members. They measured the prints. The foot was 16 inches long and seven inches wide.

"No wonder the guy has to walk around in his bare feet," said Crew. "There's not a place in the world where they sell shoes big enough to fit feet that size."

Crew and his workmates returned to the job of building Bluff Creek Road. Meanwhile, strange things started happening all up and down the construction area.

One group of workers had the job of installing concrete culverts alongside the roadway. The culverts measured 48 inches across. They weighed many hundreds of pounds. Reports started coming in about culverts being torn out of their fresh beds and thrown into nearby streams. Later, workers returned to the main supply truck. This truck carried dozens of the heavy culverts. The truck had been flipped completely over on to its roof. The culverts were scattered all over the place. And there were hundreds of the huge footprints pressed into the gravel road. Two crews of workmen had trouble with just turning the truck back onto its wheels. Most of the pipes were ruined.

Workers at another construction site were puzzled by a disappearance. A 55-gallon drum of diesel fuel was missing. The barrel of fuel weighed nearly 350 pounds. Workers finally

found the drum at the bottom of a ravine. There were no tracks showing where the drum had been rolled across the ground. This meant that someone—or something—had carried the full drum to the edge of the ravine and then tossed it in. More footprints were found.

A tire belonging to a road-grading machine was also found at the bottom of a ravine. It, too, had been thrown and not rolled. The tire weighed in at 250 pounds.

One construction worker fell asleep in a tool shack during a work day. He was awakened by a noise outside the shed. He flung open the door and stood face-to-face with a huge hairy creature. The workman took a step back. He reached behind him and felt across a counter top. His hand grabbed a chocolate bar. He held the candy bar out to the creature. The Bigfoot took the candy and walked away. The man ran away.

Most of the construction workers spent the weeknights in tent camps set up near the work sites. On weekends they returned to the local towns to be with their families. A wave of fear was spreading through the camps. Some of the workers quit after hearing of the footprints and disappearances. Others hung on until a series of high-pitched whistling sounds were heard several nights in a row. Then many more men quit. These were men who had been raised in the wilderness. But they had never before battled Bigfoot.

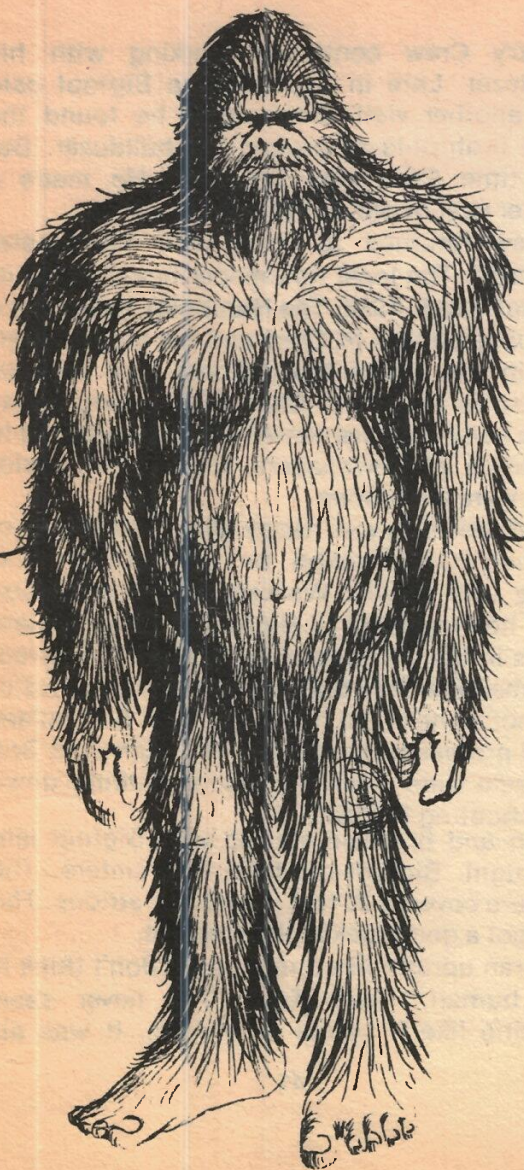
Jerry Crew continued working with his bulldozer. Late in September a Bigfoot paid him another visit. Once again he found the giant footprints all around his bulldozer. But this time Crew was prepared. He made a plaster cast of one of the 16-inch prints.

Crew returned to town with his plaster footprint. The local newspaper heard about it. On October 5, 1958, **The Humboldt Times** ran a full-page picture of Crew and his plaster cast. Within two weeks the national wire services picked up the story. Bluff Creek, Jerry Crew, and a hairy creature named Bigfoot appeared in hundreds of newspapers around the world. They were all famous.

Not everyone was happy about the arrival of Bigfoot. Construction on Bluff Creek was going very slowly. Workers would quit soon after hearing tales of Bigfoot or seeing giant prints in the gravel road foundation. Construction manager Ray Wallace wanted to get rid of Bigfoot so he could finish the road. So Wallace hired professional hunters. Ray Kerr and Bob Breazele were given the job of hunting down and shooting Bigfoot.

Kerr and Breazele met up with Bigfoot late one night. Bigfoot ran from the hunters. The creature covered 20 feet in just two strides. The men got a good look at the creature.

"It ran upright like a man, but I don't think it was human," said Kerr. "I've never seen anything like it before in my life. It was all



covered with hair. It had long, swinging arms. And it looked to me like it was eight or ten feet tall."

"It wasn't a man," said Breazele. "I don't know what it was, but it wasn't a man and that's definite."

The hunters were still not afraid of Bigfoot. They set out the very next day. This time they brought along four trained dogs. The dogs caught Bigfoot's scent. They took off. Kerr and Breazele tried to follow after the dogs. But they lost the trail. Hours later the men finally found what was left of the dogs. They had been torn to pieces.

The hunt for Bigfoot was called off, at least for the time being. But Bigfoot did not disappear.

Gary Joanis and Jim Newall were hunting in the Humboldt County area near the time of the Bluff Creek sightings. They had just shot a deer, when "a great human-like form came out of some brush not more than a hundred feet away," according to Joanis. The Bigfoot picked up the dead deer, tucked it under its arm, and took off.

"It wasn't an inch less than nine feet tall and it was all covered with dark hair," said Joanis. "It made a very strange whistling scream that we could still hear long after the thing had disappeared."

Benjamin Wilder was driving through the same area late one night. He grew tired. So he

pulled over to the side of the road to take a nap. He awoke to find his car being shaken. A huge, hairy creature was rocking his car back and forth on its springs. The creature let out a piercing, whistling scream before it ran off.

"I never saw its face and I'm glad I didn't," said Wilder. "The part of it that I did see was bad enough."

Chapter Seven

Washington, Oregon, and Bigfoot

Bigfoot was extremely active in Washington and Oregon in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Skamania County, Washington, has long been a hotbed of Bigfoot activity. Fred Beck and his miner friends had that famous run-in with Bigfoot in 1924 in Skamania County. But nothing could prepare the people of Skamania County for all the sightings which took place from 1969 through 1972.

In the spring of 1969 a woman saw two creatures poking through garbage cans outside her home. In April, Mrs. Betty Patterson sighted a pair of Bigfoot near her house in Kettle Falls. In the fall, footprints were found in three spots: near Swede's Pass, near a boat ramp on Lake Roosevelt, and in a garbage dump near Bossburg.

The Bossburg footprints are considered among the best Bigfoot prints ever photographed and cast. They have a very human appearance. The left foot is normal. The right foot is deformed into a shape called a "clubfoot" on a human being.

George Gill, a professor of anthropology at the University of Wyoming, was excited by the Bossburg prints. "They appear to have been made by a crippled Sasquatch," said Gill. "The deformity (is) most likely the result of a crushing injury to the foot during childhood, a condition almost impossible to deliberately fake."

Another professor agreed that the tracks would be tough to fake. Dr. Gover Krantz of Washington State University said, either the animals are real, or the footprints were faked by an anatomy expert."

Many Bigfoot experts traveled to Bossburg to see the prints for themselves. Rene Dahinden was one such expert. He counted 1,089 Bigfoot prints in the Bossburg garbage dump.

The Bigfoot sightings continued in Skamania County. Two men were shooting deer out of season. They killed one and carried it off. Then they ran into a Bigfoot. The men dropped the deer and ran. They returned an hour later. All they found was some deerskin, crushed bones, and huge footprints. "That thing could have torn an elephant apart," said one of the men.

Members of the Bigfoot Research Association came into Skamania County from Portland, Oregon. Twice they sighted Bigfoot from a helicopter and twice they got a look at one while on horseback. Several of the

members got within close range. "The beast shrieked, growled, and let out a series of eerie, high-pitched shrieks that made our hair stand on end," said one researcher.

Still in 1969, Don Cox began a salmon fishing trip to the Columbia River. He was driving alone early in the morning. Fog and darkness made visibility poor. Suddenly, Cox saw "a dark-colored creature with a face like an ape. The beast was between eight and ten feet tall, ran like a man, and was covered with fuzzy fur." The creature crossed the road in front of Cox's car. Then it disappeared.

In June, 1970, Robert Morgan of Miami, Florida, was on a Bigfoot search in Skamania County. Late one night he saw the red reflection of a large animal's eyes in nearby bushes. Morgan found a tree limb. To the limb he attached a special device. The machine created sounds. The noises were supposed to be soothing to a Bigfoot. Morgan flipped the machine on and returned to camp. He came back the next evening. The machine had not been touched. But all around it, in the dust, were pressed hundreds of huge footprints. Morgan measured the prints. They were 16 inches long. Morgan returned the next morning. He followed the footprints almost 100 yards into the brush. There he found the fresh remains of a dead elk. Bigfoot prints were all around the huge corpse. The elk made a big meal for a bigger creature.

Mrs. Louise Baxter had a meeting with Bigfoot in 1972. Her run-in took place very near where Don Cox met Bigfoot in 1969.

Mrs. Baxter stopped her car when she heard some noises under the hood. She got out to take a look. Something made her glance to the side of the road. "I found myself looking straight into the face of the biggest creature I have ever seen," she said. "It was ten to twelve feet tall and terribly ugly."

She described a Bigfoot covered with shaggy, coconut-brown hair. Only the nose and the upper lip were less hairy than the rest of the body. The creature had a wide nose and amber-colored eyes that glowed in the dark. The jaw jutted out from the face.

"I've never been so terrified," she said. "I screamed or hollered, but I was so scared that I don't know whether any sound came out or not. Anyway, the creature never moved. It just stood there looking at me with its huge fist up by the mouth. I can't remember how I got back into the car or how I started it."

A young driver just about ran down a Bigfoot late one night in 1966. He was driving toward Yakima, Washington, in the pouring rain. He suddenly saw a huge form in the road. The man slammed on his brakes. The car went into a skid. It finally stopped only three feet from the creature. The engine of the car died. And the man couldn't get it started again.

The Bigfoot walked all around the car. It

looked through all of the windows at the driver. The driver kept trying to start up his car. He still saw plenty of the Bigfoot. He described a creature over seven feet tall, built broadly. The Bigfoot was covered with grayish-white hair except around the lips and eyes. The eyes glowed in the headlights of the car. The creature had a flat, wide nose. Its lips were thin, its jaw large and heavy. "The whole face was slanted an awful lot," said the driver.

The man finally started his car. He took off as fast as he could. In his rear view mirror he could see the Bigfoot still standing in the middle of the road.

There was a rash of Bigfoot sightings during fishing season in autumn, 1967, in Marietta, Washington.

One man was night-fishing in the Nooksack. He felt a tug on his net. The fisherman pulled in his net. At the end of it was a dripping wet Bigfoot. Four other fisherman helped separate the Bigfoot from the net. Apparently it was after the fish in the net.

A woman was night-fishing about a week later. A Bigfoot appeared out of nowhere just four feet from her boat. She made record time returning to shore. The next morning searchers found 13 1/2-inch footprints along the wet shoreline.

Another one of the more unusual Bigfoot reports came from Oregon in 1967. A lumber worker spotted a family of creatures on a rock

ledge about 40 feet above and ahead of where he stood. There were two adults and one younger creature. He said they had faces "like a cat, without the ears." The creatures had flat noses and no necks. The adults stood around six feet tall. One adult was covered with dark brown hair, the other with light brown hair.

The young man watched as the adult creatures dug through the rocks. They very carefully piled huge rocks one on top of the other. Some of the rocks weighed upwards of 90 to 100 pounds. At first he didn't understand what the creatures were looking for. They dug through the rocks and left neat piles behind them. Finally one of the adults pulled out a grass nest. There were six to eight rat-like animals in the nest. Apparently they were hibernating because they didn't move at all.

The creatures stopped to eat the small animals. "They ate by just taking it in their hand and eating it as one of us would if we were eating a banana," said the man.

"I just couldn't believe what I was seeing," he added. "It just couldn't be true, yet I knew it was."

The creatures stopped their rock-piling when they caught sight of the young man. Very slowly and quietly they walked away. The logger told his story to a local newspaper. But he asked that his identity not be revealed. "I don't want people to think I'm some kind of a nut," he said.

On July 27, 1969, deputy sheriff Verlin Harrington met a female Bigfoot in Grays Harbor County, Washington. Harrington was driving home from work after midnight. He took a corner and "spotted a large, hairy creature standing in the middle of the road. I put on my brakes and came to a halt. Then I coasted on up to about 85 to 90 feet from her. The thing was standing in a stooped position, startled, watching my vehicle. I came to a complete stop, got my spotlight out and turned it on the animal. I noticed that its eyes glowed yellow in the light. I would estimate its height at seven to eight feet and its weight at something over 300 pounds. It had hair all over of a dark brown color." When Harrington got out of his car to get a closer look, the Bigfoot ran into the trees.

The incident described in Chapter One was just one more in a series of Washington and Oregon Bigfoot sightings. They don't call that area "Bigfoot Country" for nothing.

Chapter Eight

Bigfoot, Bigfoot Everywhere

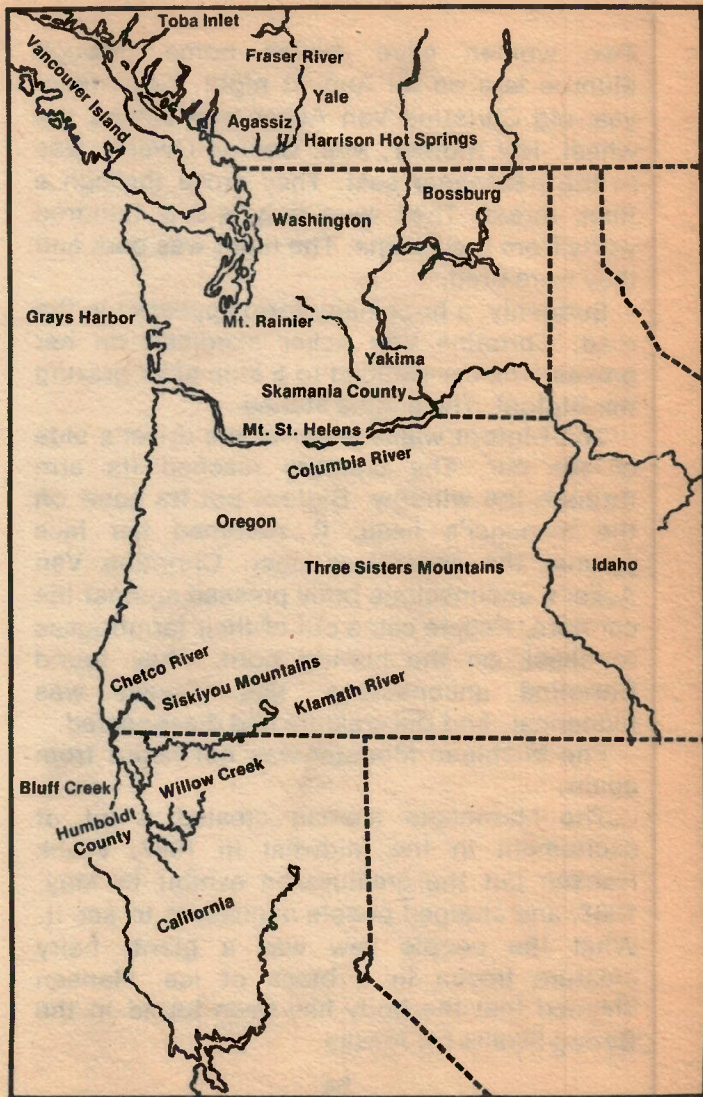
Most Bigfoot reports come from the isolated areas of California, Oregon, Washington, and western Canada. Over the years, however, Bigfoot has been spotted in almost half of the 50 states. Many of those reports caused a great deal of excitement when made public. People began to wonder when a Bigfoot might make a guest appearance in their very own back yard.

Sister Lakes, Michigan, was the scene of several strange happenings during the summer of 1964. The series of Bigfoot sightings gave the creature a new nickname—The Michigan Monster.

Reports began to pour into the police department. People claimed to have seen a creature nine feet tall weighing 500 pounds. Giant footprints were found. They measured out to 17 inches in length and six inches in width.

Two teenage girls saw the creature in broad daylight. "Except for the face, it was just like a bear walking on its hind legs," they told police.

Outside Sister Lakes is the town of Munroe.



Two women were driving home through Munroe late on an August night. Seventeen-year-old Christine Van Acker was behind the wheel. Her mother, Mrs. George Owens, was in the passenger seat. They drove through a thick forest. They were only a few hundred yards from their home. The night was dark and they were tired.

Suddenly, a huge hairy form appeared in the road. Christine Van Acker slammed on her brakes. The car skidded to a stop after grazing the Bigfoot. The engine stalled.

The Bigfoot walked over to the driver's side of the car. The creature reached its arm through the window. Bigfoot put its hand on the teenager's head. It slammed her face against the car's door post. Christine Van Acker's unconscious body pressed against the car horn. People came out of their farmhouses to check on the blaring horn. They found Christine unconscious. Mrs. Owens was hysterical. And the creature had disappeared.

The Michigan Monster was not heard from again.

The Minnesota Iceman created a lot of excitement in the Midwest in 1967. Frank Hansen put the creature on exhibit in May, 1967, and charged people admission to see it. What the people saw was a giant, hairy creature frozen in a block of ice. Hansen claimed that the body had been found in the Bering Straits off Alaska.

Two well-known scientists inspected, sketched, and photographed the creature. The scientists had to lie down on the block of ice to do their job. They found that the creature had been shot through the right eye. They measured the creature's feet at ten-and-a-half inches in width.

The Minnesota Iceman disappeared after a year of exhibition. In 1969, a new exhibit appeared. The new frozen creature was very different from the original. It was obviously a plastic phony.

The Minnesota Iceman was never found. Hansen claimed it was indeed the real thing. Hansen said that he had shot the creature himself. No one will ever know if there had been a dead Bigfoot frozen in that huge block of ice.

Three Wisconsin men had a pair of run-ins with Bigfoot in the fall of 1969. Both meetings took place in the Deltox Marsh near Fremont, Wisconsin.

Bob Parry, Dick Bleier, and Bill Mallo were bow-and-arrow hunting in the marsh. In a large clearing they encountered a large, hair-covered creature. The men tried to get a closer look. But the creature took off quickly as the men neared.

Days later, on November 30, the three men were hunting deer in the same marsh. This time they were in the company of nine other hunters.

The men were trying to flush deer from their hiding places. Instead, they flushed a Bigfoot. The creature moved slowly away from the men. It glanced back often at the men. The hunters reported that the creature walked like a man, with long arms swinging at its side. They said the Bigfoot was eight feet tall, heavy, and covered with long, dark hair.

The Missouri Monster became famous in the summer of 1972. Many Bigfoot sightings were reported from all around the state. Two of the scariest reports involved young children.

A four-year-old boy was playing in the back yard of his aunt's home one day. A Bigfoot ran into the yard, picked up the child, and started running off with him. The woman screamed. The dog barked. The Bigfoot dropped the little boy and ran off.

"I thought it was a bear," said the woman. "But I showed my nephew a picture of a gorilla and he said the thing looked like that."

An eight-year-old boy turned in another Bigfoot report. He saw "a big hairy thing with a dog under its arm." The boy ran into his house. He told his 15-year-old sister what he had seen. She looked outside and saw a Bigfoot standing in a ditch. She guessed that it was seven feet tall. The creature ran off on two legs.

The Missouri Monster wasn't heard from after that.

Two strange days in June, 1973, will long be



In Missouri in 1972, an eight-year-old boy saw a Bigfoot walking through his back yard with a dog tucked under its arm.

remembered by the residents of Murphysboro, Illinois. Murphysboro is a town in the southern part of the state. The town is on the banks of the Mississippi River.

The eerie events began on the evening of June 25. A young couple was sitting and talking in a car parked on a boat ramp. They heard an unearthly scream. Then they saw an eight-foot monster. The creature was light-colored and covered with mud. The frightened pair drove away and went to the police.

Officer Jimmie Nash was sent to check out the odd report. "I was leaning over inspecting some tracks in the mud, when something let out the most incredible shriek I've ever heard," said Nash. "It came from the bushes near the bank. I knew that it wasn't a bobcat or screech owl, so I hightailed it back to the car."

Bigfoot continued its appearances the next day. Four-year-old Christian Baril was playing in his back yard. He saw a huge, light-colored creature. Christian ran into his house, shouting, "Daddy, Daddy, there's a great big ghost out in the back." The boy's father ran out the door. He saw a huge, hairy monster running into the woods.

That evening Randy Creath and Cheryl Ray sat on Cheryl's front porch. The teenagers heard something moving in the bushes. All of a sudden Bigfoot stepped out of the bushes. Randy and Cheryl were scared stiff. Fifteen feet in front of them stood an eight-foot tall

creature. The Bigfoot had shaggy, matted dirty-white hair. The teens smelled a foul odor, like that of the river at low tide. After what seemed like hours the Bigfoot turned and ran away. Actually, the meeting lasted less than a minute.

Randy and Cheryl rushed to the police station. Young Creath drew a picture of the monster. The police department began a careful search for the "Murphysboro Monster." Officers found a rough trail. Along the trail were broken branches, crushed grass, and uprooted saplings. The trail led to an abandoned barn. Fourteen police cars raced to the scene. The police officers searched the entire barn. But no trace of the creature was found.

Life returned to normal in Murphysboro. There were no Bigfoot reports for nearly a month. People began to relax. Parents let their children go out at night.

The Miller Carnival was set up at Riverside Park late in the summer. The rides and midway were located near the boat ramp where Bigfoot had first been sighted.

Bigfoot returned late one night. Carnival workers Otis Norris, Ray Adkerson, and Wesley Lavander heard noises outside their campsite. Then they heard the ponies acting up. The three men went out to check on the animals. They saw a huge creature standing upright near the ponies. The Bigfoot was eight

feet tall and weighed 400 pounds, according to the men. The creature was entirely covered with light-colored hair. As the men walked up the creature ran off.

Later that night the Bigfoot was once again seen near the carnival ponies, this time by carnival worker Charles Kimbal.

Bigfoot sightings continued throughout the summer and into the fall. Halloween trick-or-treating was canceled in Murphysboro for 1973. The townsfolk had no need for monster costumes and scary skeletons. Murphysboro had the real thing.

Bigfoot has made a number of appearances throughout the state of Florida. Most sightings have taken place in the huge Everglades swampland or in the Ocala National Forest in the center of the state. The Florida nickname for the creature is the "Skunk-Ape." That's because of the foul odor often smelled in the presence of the Florida Bigfoot.

The ranch of Debbie and Michael Polenek was the scene of a scary "Skunk-Ape" encounter. The Poleneks found a yearling horse killed and ripped apart. One of their calves was beheaded and stripped of its flesh. Around the same time, police officer Joe Simboli had a run-in with a seven-foot tall hair-covered creature.

Mary Ann Johnson of Thonotosassa, Florida, has begun a Bigfoot Information Center to bring together East Coast Bigfoot

sightings. She has some Bigfoot reporting of her own to do, too. Mrs. Johnson claims to have found hundreds of strands of Bigfoot hair in the Ocala National Forest. She sent them off to a Florida university for analysis in the spring of 1979.

"A vet I showed the hair to didn't know what it was," she said. "But he said it wasn't horse hair or dog hair. And I knew it wasn't from a bear."

Mrs. Johnson has not met a Bigfoot herself. "I know why Bigfoot keeps hiding out and stays away from people," she said. "It's because he's smarter than the average monkey."

Chapter Nine

The Bigfoot on Film

How come, people often ask, nobody has ever gotten any pictures of a Bigfoot?

Well, at least three people have taken pictures of Bigfoot. All three have become famous for getting photographic images of the shy, hairy creature called Bigfoot.

Zack Hamilton came forward with still pictures in 1963. Roger Patterson shot 20 feet of movie film in 1967. Frank White took movie footage of Bigfoot in the mid-1970s.

Zack Hamilton was a grizzled old woodsman who spent a lot of time in the Oregon wilderness. During a trip to the Three Sisters wilderness area he had a meeting with Bigfoot. Hamilton said he had been chased by the creature. While he was running he stopped to take pictures of the Bigfoot with a cheap camera.

Hamilton left his film with a San Francisco camera store in 1963. He never picked up the developed pictures. In 1966, the manager of the store pulled the pictures out of his files. He shared the shots with the world.

The photos were very fuzzy. They lacked contrast. They had been shot in very low light. But still they showed a huge, hulking man-like or ape-like creature. The Bigfoot had long arms, short legs, and was covered with dark hair. The creature's head rested directly on its wide shoulders.

"An old woodsman couldn't possibly fake a thing like that," said the manager of the photo shop.

The Frank White film received a lot of attention in 1978. White's meeting with Bigfoot was in British Columbia. White and his wife had been travelling near Mt. Rainier in Washington State. "We were sitting on a log, eating sandwiches, when we looked up and saw it looking at us," said White. He picked up his camera and started shooting. "The jerky part is my wife pulling my sleeve and me shaking," explained White.

White captured the Bigfoot on several feet of movie film. The real-looking creature is seen walking quickly through the woods before disappearing.

The former schoolteacher described his meeting with Bigfoot as "like a dream".

The most talked-about Bigfoot film footage was shot by Roger Patterson in 1967.

Patterson was a long-time believer in Bigfoot. He had been searching for the Sasquatch since 1962. In October, 1967, Patterson heard about some Bigfoot prints in



the famous Bluff Creek area of northern California. He and a friend, Bob Gimlin, rode horses into the wilderness of Humboldt County.

The horses became jumpy. Something was nearby. Suddenly the horses reared up, dumping their riders to the ground. A Bigfoot crossed the path directly in front of the men.

Patterson pulled out his movie camera. Half falling as he ran after the creature, Patterson started shooting. He reeled off 20 feet of film while the Bigfoot walked along the edge of a dense forest. Then the creature looked back over its shoulder. Patterson kept shooting. The Bigfoot disappeared into the trees.

The former rodeo worker put his camera safely away. He searched for footprints. He measured several of the tracks left by the Bigfoot. The prints were 17½ inches long and 7½ inches wide. The strides were 41 inches long when the creature was walking. The stride increased to 65 inches when the Bigfoot started running.

Patterson had the color movie film developed. He had an exact duplicate made. He locked the duplicate into a safe deposit box. Then he viewed the original. The jumpy picture showed a female Bigfoot. The creature appeared to be seven feet tall and about 350-450 pounds. The Bigfoot had short legs and long arms. Its body was covered with reddish-brown hair. The creature's head stood

directly on the shoulders. Patterson felt he had the real thing.

Roger Patterson became an instant hero in the world of Bigfoot research. Newspapers ran pictures and stories about his film. Magazines printed layouts on his Bigfoot research. Johnny Carson invited him to appear on **The Tonight Show**. Feature film makers wanted to include his footage in movies about Bigfoot.

But another whole group of people thought the Bluff Creek film a fake. Dr. John Napier of the Smithsonian Institution was one of the critics. He said the Bigfoot had a "self-conscious walk," like it knew it was on camera. "The upper half of the body bears some resemblance to an ape, and the lower half is typically human," said Napier. "One half of the animal must be artificial. Perhaps it was a man dressed up in a monkey-skin."

A Canadian anthropologist said, simply, "I think the film is genuine."

A Hollywood special effects expert agreed. "It might possibly be done," he said. "But I'd guess that it would be very nearly impossible. And it would take an awful lot of time and money."

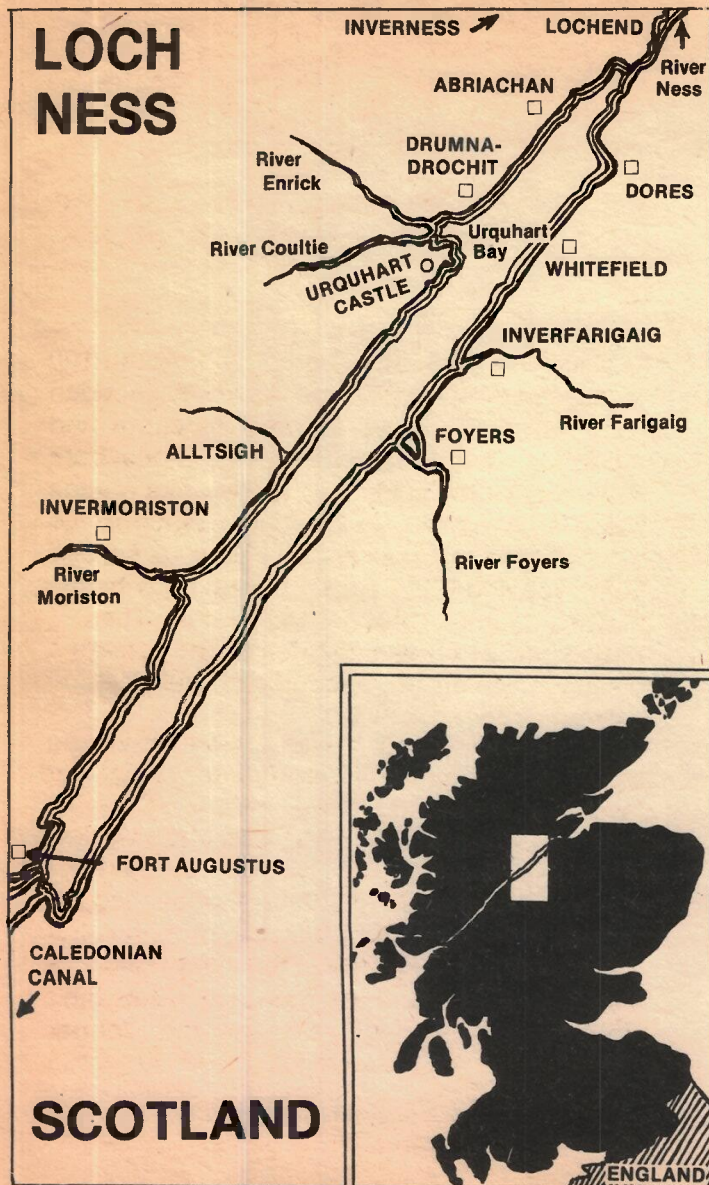
The Bigfoot controversy surrounded Roger Patterson until his death in 1972. Many more Bigfoot believers have carried on his search in the years since then. The researchers, it would seem, come and go. Bigfoot, however, seems to live on forever.

LOCH
NESS



SCOTLAND

LOCH NESS



Chapter One

NESSIE

There was something in the loch. About 100 yards from shore there was a sudden commotion. The waters began to churn and foam. The next moment an enormous dark shape broke the surface. It looked like a huge hump. It was blue-black in color. Water rolled off its sides in great sheets. Next, a second hump appeared. The dark, humped body began moving rapidly through the water. Then it turned in a curve. Suddenly the creature disappeared beneath the surface. It left behind a large, bubbling wake.

John Mackay and his wife were travelling along the loch that afternoon in 1933 near Inverness, Scotland.

Two weeks afterward Mr. and Mrs. Mackay told their story to a reporter named Alex Campbell. The Inverness **Courier** published the story on May 2, 1933. This was not the first time someone claimed to have seen a mysterious creature in the loch. But their sighting was a "first" because the **Courier** article gave the strange, humped object a

name. It would no longer be simply a "mysterious creature." From now on it would be known as the Loch Ness monster.

Nearly every country in the world has its own tales of weird beasts living in its waters. Of all of these, none is more famous than the Loch Ness monster of the Scottish Highlands.

The legend of "Nessie," as she is also called, is more than fourteen centuries old. Over the years, thousands of people have come from all over the world just to get a glimpse of her. But like any good mystery, Nessie is elusive and puzzling. She is a silent, timid creature that seems to avoid contact with humans. She appears without warning and vanishes again just as quickly.

No one is quite sure what Nessie is or what she looks like. She has been identified as many different things by many different people. Some people believe she is a large seal or otter. Others feel she is an oversized eel. Still others are positive she is a giant squid or a stray crocodile or a misguided shark. One favorite theory is that Nessie is a descendent of a prehistoric reptile.

Not everyone, however, is convinced Nessie really exists. Some scientists don't believe stories of an animal in the loch. They insist there is not enough proof. Some say the beast is a publicity stunt to attract tourists to the Highlands.

To others the idea of an unknown creature is

a joke. Once, a practical joker decided to lead monster-hunters on a chase. He made imprints on the shore of the loch with a stuffed hippopotamus foot!

But there are many people who believe in Nessie. That number is growing all the time. And many continue to search for her year after year.

Scientific expeditions have been launched to track Nessie down. The Loch Ness Phenomena Investigation Bureau was established. Beginning in 1934, New York's Bronx Zoo offered a \$25,000 reward to anyone who could capture the monster alive. Still photographs, movies, television and sonar have all been used to try to get clear proof of Nessie's existence. So far, all these efforts have failed.

Does the Loch Ness monster really exist? Is Nessie only a trick of the imagination of thousands of people? Are the stories of the beast just one long string of lies?

Or is there really a giant, living creature swimming the depths of the loch? If so, what is it?

There are few clues to the riddle of Nessie. A blurred photograph, an eyewitness report, a sonar trace. These are some of the pieces of the puzzle. Most of the pieces are still missing. The dark waters of Loch Ness hold a secret that to this day has not been solved.

Chapter Two

THE LOCH AND THE LEGENDS

Loch Ness is a good place for a monster. It seems as if Nature had specially designed it to hide something. Some great beasts could remain a mystery here for a long time. There are several reasons for this.

The loch lies in an enormous valley called the Great Glen. This valley runs all the way across Scotland. Its sides are as high as 300 feet. For many years few people came to Loch Ness because it was almost hidden from view.

Size is another reason Nessie has been able to stay hidden so well. Loch Ness is extremely large. It is over 23 miles long and one mile wide. Loch Ness is one of the biggest freshwater lakes in Scotland.

Loch Ness is also very deep. Much of Loch Ness is about 750 feet deep. There are a few spots where the loch is over 900 feet deep. Imagine the water being as deep as the length of three football fields. Then you can see how much room a monster would have to roam around in. Even a creature 20 to 30 feet long would be hard to find in a lake that size.

The darkness of the loch is a major problem for Nessie-hunters. The water is filled with a substance called peat. Peat is made up of tiny particles of decayed plants. These particles stain the water a dark brown color. The dark water makes underwater photography almost impossible.

These things set the stage for the world's best-known monster mystery. It is the setting for other mysteries as well.

Tales of evil creatures in the waters of Scotland have been told for centuries. The kelpie was one of these creatures. It was an evil spirit that haunted the lochs and waited to attack anyone who ventured into the water. The kelpie sometimes took the shape of a horse.

Strangely enough, the Loch Ness monster would be described as "horse-like" many years later.

At first the stories of the monster told of violence and death. The earliest tale of a creature in Loch Ness was just such a story.

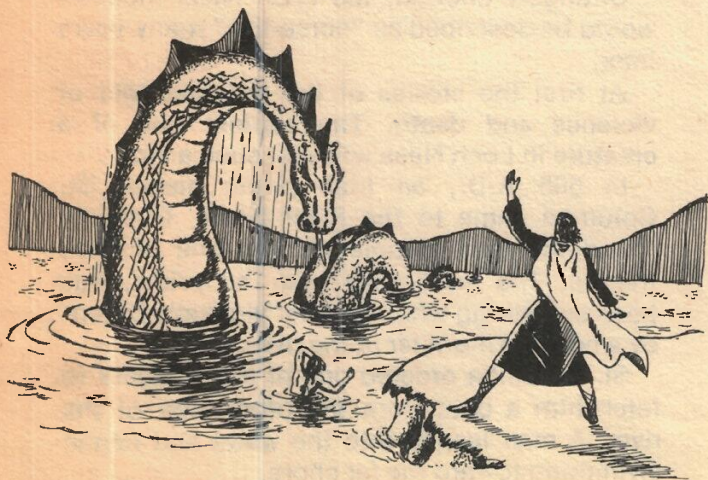
In 565 A.D., an Irish priest named St. Columba came to the River Nees. There he found the local people burying one of their friends. The man, they told the priest, had been swimming when he was "viciously bitten" by a horrible monster in the river.

St. Columba ordered one of the villagers to fetch him a boat from the other side of the river. A man leaped into the water and began swimming toward the far shore.

Suddenly the monster rose out of the water with a terrifying roar. Its great mouth was wide open. St. Columba cried out, "Go thou no further nor touch the man. Go back at once!" The beast disappeared as quickly as it had come.

As time went by, the accounts of the monster in the loch changed. The beast seemed to become more gentle and peaceful. There were no more tales of the monster attacking human beings. But there were still plenty of other stories.

In 1802, a farmer reported a sudden meeting with the monster. Alexander MacDonald was on the shore of the Loch Ness one day. He was bringing home a stray lamb. Suddenly he saw a



The legend of St. Columba and the monster.

huge creature come to the surface of the loch. On its body were short flat objects like fins or flippers. The animal swam through the water. It came within 50 yards of where MacDonald stood. Then it turned away.

Reports of a monster in the loch kept coming in. In 1880 Duncan MacDonald was diving in the loch. He was exploring the wreck of a ship. All at once he gave the signal to be pulled up. When he came up he was shaking and pale. He refused to tell what had happened for several days. Finally he said that he had seen a gigantic creature. It looked like a huge frog. The animal had been stretched out on a shelf of rock. MacDonald swore he would never again dive in Loch Ness.

In the early 1900's more sightings were reported. A startling number of the descriptions of the creature were alike. Many of them told of a dark form shaped like "an upturned boat". Other reports identified the animal as a giant eel. A few called it a salamander. At least one account described it as "a horrible great beastie".

And some people saw something unusual and didn't talk. They were afraid people would laugh at them.

Up to that time only the local people ever talked about the creature. The Loch Ness monster was not yet very well known outside of the Scottish Highlands.

Then on that April morning in 1933, Mr. and

Mrs. Mackay took their fateful drive along the loch. Nessie didn't know it, but she was just about to become a celebrity.

Chapter Three

THE YEAR OF THE MONSTER

Not long after John Mackay's story was printed in the Inverness **Courier**, the creature appeared again.

On May 11, 1933, Alexander Shaw and his son Alister were standing in front of their house. They saw a white wake about 500 yards out on the loch. Then a long dark hump began to glide through the water. Shaw noticed something rippling under the water in front of the hump. They watched the dark shape for at least five minutes before it disappeared.

During the rest of 1933, Nessie made sudden appearances, more than thirty times. Most appearances took place on Loch Ness. But some happened on land, too.

On July 22nd, Mr. and Mrs. George Spicer spotted an enormous shape coming out of the bushes as they drove near the loch. It was moving in a clumsy, jerking fashion across the road about 200 yards away. Then it vanished into the undergrowth.

"It was horrible," Mr. Spicer said later. "We saw an undulating sort of neck, a little thicker

than an elephant's trunk." He added that there were three arches in the neck. The monster's huge, heavy body was about four feet high. A rise in the road hid its feet.

"Its color could be called a dark elephant gray," Spicer recalled. "It looked like a huge snail with a long neck."

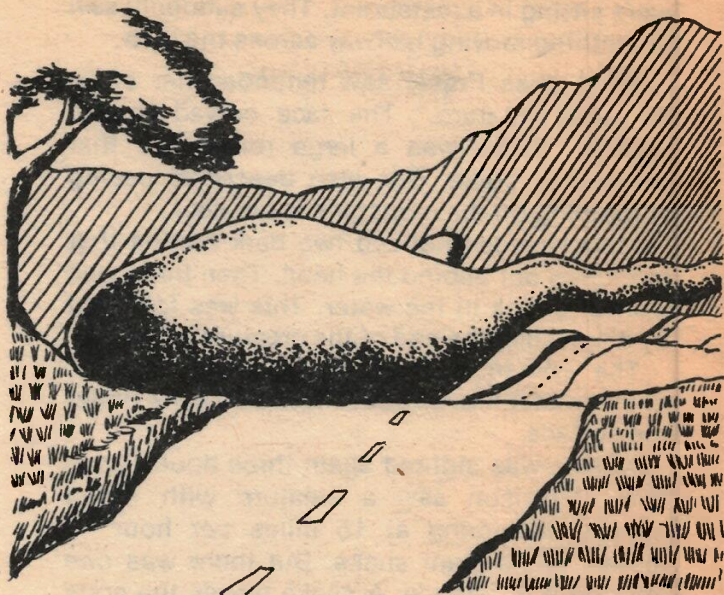
At first Spicer guessed that the creature's length was six to eight feet long. Later he changed that estimate to 25 feet. He and his wife had never gotten a glimpse of the beast's head. It was already out of sight as they approached. They had also seen something flapping over the back of the neck. They were not sure if this object was a dorsal fin or the tip of a tail that was bent around.

This sighting caused a great deal of excitement around the area. The Northern **Chronicle** suggested the strange animal might be a prehistoric reptile called a plesiosaurus. The public liked that idea. It sounded scary and scientific at the same time. Nessie was beginning to become famous.

Three weeks later, an engineer named A.H. Palmer was camping near the north shore of Loch Ness. At about 7 A.M. he heard a noise like a strong wind on the water. He went down to the shore and looked out over the loch. The water was foaming wildly. Waves were spreading out for 200 yards on each side. Palmer could see nothing more.

When he returned to the shore an hour later,

This is the scene George Spicer and his wife saw in 1933 while driving along the road by Loch Ness. The creature's head had just disappeared from view.



the loch was calm. He looked closer and saw the head of an animal 100 yards away. It was set low in the water.

Palmer later gave this description of the head. "At each side I saw a short antenna like the horns of a snail. Between them was a side mouth opening and closing at about two-second intervals. The width of the mouth I should estimate at about 12 to 18 inches. It opened about six inches. It appeared to be breathing."

The monster was sighted by a group of women on September 22, 1933. Miss J.S.

Fraser, Miss M. Howden and two other women were sitting in a restaurant. They suddenly saw something moving halfway across the loch.

What Miss Fraser saw reminded her of "a mythical creature." The face curved inward slightly. There was a large round eye that seemed to shine. She also described seeing something on the monster's lower neck.

Miss Howden noticed two dark humps that stretched out behind the head. Then there was a silver streak in the water. This was followed by a splash at the end of the creature's body.

The woman watched for 10 or 15 minutes. The monster moved southward and sank under the surface.

Nessie was sighted again three hours later. D.W. Morrison saw a creature with seven humps swimming at 15 miles per hour. It looked like a giant snake. But there was one important difference. A snake moves the coils of its body from side to side. Morrison's monster made an up-and-down rippling motion.

B.A. Russell, a teacher at the Fort Augustus Abbey School, had always thought the "monster" was a stray seal. On October 1, 1933, he changed his mind.

That morning he watched a strange-looking head and neck moving on the loch. It was about 800 yards away. The head rose at least five feet out of the water. It was the same thickness as the neck. The neck itself was

arched like a swan's. It was dark in color.

Russell could not see any of the animal's body. He did see a V-shaped ripple that spread out from the neck. The beast turned slowly from one side to the other as it swam.

So far, only human eyes had recorded the sight of the Loch Ness monster. Each person reported what he or she had seen. Then on November 12, 1933 Nessie was photographed for the first time.

Hugh Gray was walking on the shore near the village of Foyers. He was on a path 30 feet above the level of the loch. Suddenly the calm water began to move violently. A huge form reared up from the surface. Gray saw what appeared to be the back of a large animal. There was also a long object that looked like a neck or a tail. The body was gray, smooth and glistening. It rose about three feet above the water.

Gray had been carrying his camera. Now he quickly brought it up and snapped off five photos. The creature moved around in the water for nearly five minutes. It threw up so much spray that it was hard to see clearly. Then the animal sank from view.

Gray left the film in a drawer for three weeks. When the film was developed, four pictures were blank. The fifth shot showed the animal he had seen on the loch. That photograph appeared in the Scottish newspaper, **The Daily Record** on December 6th.

The negative was studied by Kodak film experts. They found it had not been faked or changed in any way.

Then the photograph was shown to scientists. They were not convinced it showed an unknown creature. One British zoologist said the object could be a whale or a shark. Others were not even sure the thing in the photo was alive. They believed the object could be a tree trunk or a wreck.

Even photos were not accepted as proof that the Loch Ness monster existed. Ever since, every photo taken of something unusual in the loch has been dutifully studied and tested. Modern science had no intention of being convinced easily.

If scientists did not recognize Nessie's existence, others did.

The Secretary of State of Scotland ordered police at Inverness to keep people from trapping or harming the creature. A circus offered over \$50,000 for capturing the monster alive. The New York Zoo made an offer of \$5,000.

In December 1933 a big game hunter named M.A. Wetherall arrived at Loch Ness. He was leading an expedition to hunt down the famous monster. He searched for several days. Then Wetherall came upon a set of mysterious tracks on the shore. He was sure he had found the first positive proof the creature existed.

"It is a four-fingered beast and it has feet or

pads about eight inches across," he announced. "I should judge it to be a very powerful soft-footed animal about 20 feet long."

Whetherall made a plaster cast of the strange tracks. The cast was examined by the Museum of Natural History in London. Soon afterward, Dr. W. T. Calman reported the museum's findings.

"We are unable to find any difference between these impressions and those made by the foot of a hippopotamus," Dr. Calman said.

Later the rest of the story came out. A local villager had used a hippo umbrella stand to make the mysterious tracks. The "first positive proof" had turned out to be a practical joke.

The search for Nessie soon turned serious again. The final days of 1933 held the longest sighting of the beast yet.

W. Urwick Goodbody and his two daughters saw what looked like fins in the water on December 30th. Nessie came within 500 yards. Goodbody realized they were not fins at all. They were eight dark humps about a foot apart. One of his daughters counted nine humps in all. The number of humps seemed to change.

"The creature had a long, thin neck with a very small head, perched much higher than the body," Goodbody said. "The part I saw was about 16 feet long. I did not see the tail as it was underwater. But there was a thrashing of the water when the object made a turning

movement."

The three of them watched the monster for 40 minutes. Goodbody said later, "It was not anything like a walrus or a whale or anything I have ever seen in my worldwide travels. I can say for a certainty there is an extraordinary creature in the loch."

1933 might well be called the Year of the Monster. From the Mackays' experience to the Goodbody incident, there were 33 sightings that year. If Nessie had been in Loch Ness all the time, why did she appear so often in 1933?

One reason might be the highway. Before 1933 there had been one road around the loch. This road did not go very near the shore. And trees around the loch blocked the view of the water.

Then in early 1933, a highway was built on the loch's north shore. Explosives were used to blast tons of rock from hillside to make room for the new road. Could the noise, shock waves and falling rock have disturbed the monster? Did it sometimes come to the surface to see what was going on? Many Nessie-hunters thought this was one reason she was spotted more often.

The work crews cut down trees near the shore. This created a better view of the loch from the road.

The Mackays first saw the creature from this new road.

After the Mackays' story was published,

people began coming to Loch Ness. As time went by, hundreds of monster-hunters and sightseers arrived in hopes of catching a glimpse of Nessie. Business boomed for the local shop-keepers and hotel owners. The New York **Herald-Tribune** called the whole situation a "tourist trap."

Tourist trap or not, sightings of the creature continued. Some of the reports were quite different from each other. But many of the descriptions were alike. When they were compared, a picture of the Loch Ness monster began to form.

First, most witnesses described it as being 20 to 30 feet long. They said it had one or two humps. These humps were usually three to five feet high. The head was described as small and dark. It rested on a long neck that looked like a swan's neck. The movement of something like a tail under the water was often mentioned. The beast would usually leave a wake behind it when it moved. Practically every description gave the color of the monster's skin as dark gray.

By the end of 1933, the Loch Ness monster was no longer a myth. She was now a very real mystery. And the investigation had only just begun.

Chapter Four

NESSIE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

1933 was a good year for Nessie-hunters. But 1934 was even better. There were twice as many sightings of the monster that year as the year before. There were more photographs taken. And now there were movies.

On January 3, 1934, a newsreel was shown to an audience in London. The star of the show was the Loch Ness monster.

The movies had been taken in December by Malcolm Irvine of Scottish Film Productions. Two assistants had been with him. They had been able to film the creature for two minutes as it swam across the loch.

Capturing Nessie on film was difficult. But Irvine had formed a plan. He thought the beast probably lived on salmon and trout. Irvine set up his camera near the feeding banks of the salmon and trout. Then he waited for Nessie to come to dinner.

Soon a long dark object like a tree trunk came into view. It swam by, 100 yards from the closest camera. The cameramen figured its speed at 20 miles per hour.

The creature seemed to have a gray body and a black tail. It was about 16 feet long and made a good deal of splashing as it moved. Irvine and his men also saw seven or eight humps.

People watched the film. But many did not believe they were watching a living animal. The newsreel was not accepted as proof there was a creature in Loch Ness.

Two days after the filming the monster appeared again.

Arthur Grant, a young veterinary student, was driving along the loch road on his motorcycle. It was 1:30 in the morning. The moon was bright. Suddenly he saw a dark object near the bushes on the right side of the road ahead.

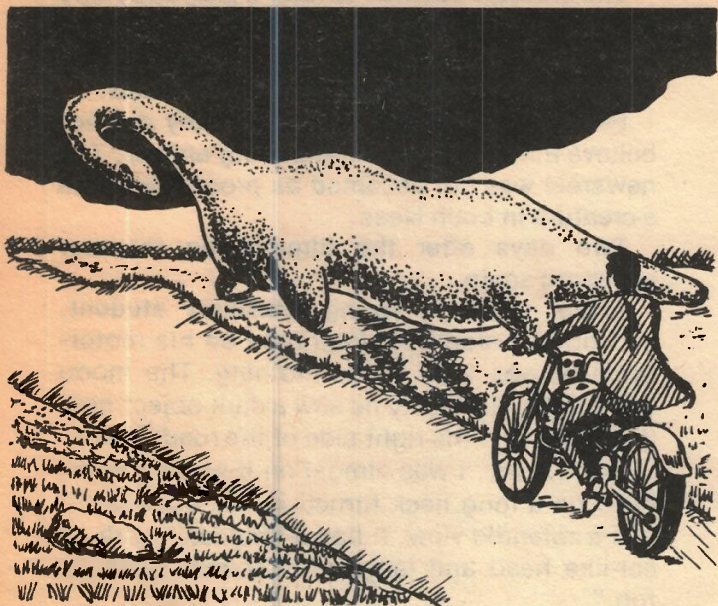
Grant said, "I was almost on it when a small head on a long neck turned in my direction. I had a splendid view. It had a long neck with an eel-like head and large, oval-shaped eyes on top."

He also got a good look at the creature's body and tail. "The body was very hefty and I distinctly saw two front flippers. There were two other flippers which seemed to be webbed behind. The tail did not come to a point, but was rounded off. The total length of the creature would be 15 to 20 feet."

The monster crossed the road in two great leaps. "I jumped off my cycle," Grant said. "But the creature with great speed had rushed into the loch, making a wild splash."

Grant raced home. He told his family about

A student named Arthur Grant had this remarkable encounter with Nessie late one night in January, 1934.



what he had seen. He even drew a sketch of the unusual beast. Grant believed the animal was something between a plesiosaurus and a seal.

The next day he went back to the scene of his sighting. There he found some tracks on the shore. Wetherall, the big game hunter, came out to have a look, too. Since the hippopotamus foot hoax, footprints had not been taken seriously. But Grant's story was. It became known as one of the most spectacular Nessie sightings of all.

Most of the stories of the monster had at

least one thing in common. Nessie was not a violent beast. She did not attack humans.

But five days after Arthur Grant's experience, a corpse was found. It was the body of a man about 50 years old. It was discovered near the area where the monster was seen most often. The hide and bones of a goat were lying nearby.

Several men investigated the situation. They said the goat's bones were broken in an odd way. The bones looked as if they had been crunched by a double set of giant teeth. Could the Loch Ness monster have been responsible for the deaths?

That question was soon forgotten. In three months the world once again took notice of the puzzle at Loch Ness. The most famous photograph ever taken of Nessie appeared.

In early April, 1934, a London surgeon named R. Kenneth Wilson saw Nessie. He had stopped his car on the road to Inverness about 7:30 in the morning. He walked down the slope. Then he spotted a disturbance 250 yards from shore.

"I saw the head of the strange animal rising up out of the water," Dr. Wilson said. "I was so excited I did not pause to observe it properly. Instead, I dashed for the camera. Then, focusing it on the object moving about in the water, I took four photos."

Dr. Wilson was smart to act so quickly. "The monster did not stay long on the surface," he

explained. "Just as I took the fourth photograph the head began gradually to sink from view."

Like the Hugh Gray incident, only some of the pictures came out. Two were blank. One of the remaining shots showed a tiny head sinking underwater. The fourth shot has become a classic.

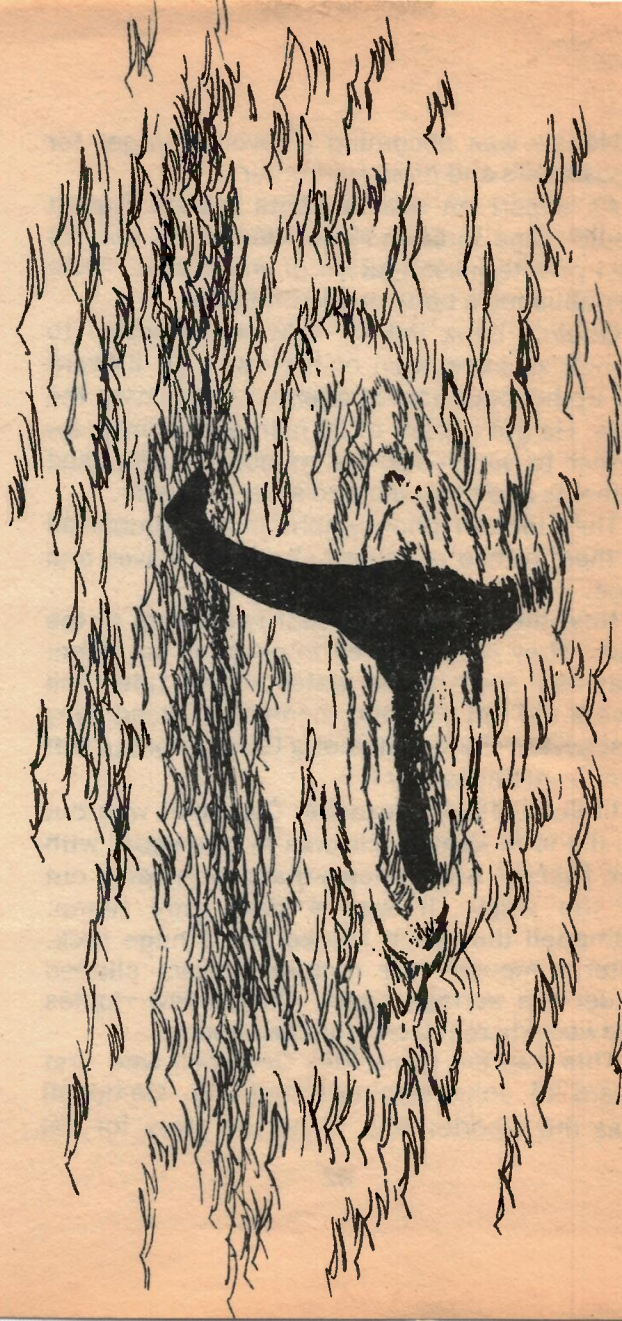
The photograph shows a black form in the water. A head and neck are clearly visible. The neck is long and graceful, like a swan's. The dark area behind it suggests a thick body.

The photograph caused a sensation. Many scientists were impressed. The London Zoo curator said it was the most exciting photograph yet. "This puts an end to my theory that the Loch Ness monster was a gray seal," the zoo's curator stated. "I can only say the mystery of Loch Ness deepens."

Dr. Calman, the zoologist who had studied M. A. Wetherall's "hippo tracks," said he couldn't guess what it was.

Other people thought they could. One scientist insisted the object in Wilson's photo was some kind of diving bird. Another said it was an otter. Others were convinced it was a killer whale.

Once again, a photograph of the creature had brought on a hot debate. To some people, Wilson's picture was clear proof the monster was genuine. To the doubters, it only raised more questions.



Sketch of the most famous photograph of the Loch Ness Monster, taken by R. Kenneth Wilson in 1934.

Nessie was becoming a favorite target for researchers and monster-hunters.

An expert on sea serpents named Rupert Gould came to Loch Ness. He carried out his own private investigation of the matter. Then he published a book on his findings.

Gould's book led Sir Edward Mountain to launch an expedition of his own. Sir Edward set up headquarters in a rented castle near the loch. He got a team of 20 men and women together to watch for the monster. They used cameras and binoculars to scan the water.

They took 21 photographs in all. Almost all of them turned out to be photos of waves and logs.

Next the British Navy sent two divers to the loch. They were ordered to examine an object that was seen in the water at low tide. The divers did not find the monster. Instead they discovered the remains of a German blimp left over from World War I!

In June, 1934, Alexander Campbell was out on the loch fishing. He was in a rowboat with two friends. All at once a giant form came out of the water. It was a dark gray hump. Campbell thought it looked like a huge rock. After a moment the rock-like object slipped under the surface again. Only a few ripples showed where the creature had been.

This was the same Alex Campbell who first heard of John Mackay's sighting. Campbell was the reporter who wrote the story for the

Inverness **Courier**. Now he had sighted the monster himself!

By the time 1934 ended, interest in the monster began to fade. Nessie was still paying surprise visits in the loch. But the public was losing interest.

Once, the newspapers in England carried stories of the beast to the rest of the world. Now they printed only a few articles. There had been a new photograph of Nessie taken in August. But even that did not create the sensation it used to.

Were people forgetting about Nessie? Did they no longer care about the beast in the loch? Was the thrill of the hunt dimming.

It seemed to be.

Chapter Five

THE SPOTLIGHT DIMS

Nessie may have been forgotten, but she wasn't gone.

In May of 1935, Alexander Ross caught sight of the monster at the south end of the loch near Fort Augustus. Ross later described it as being 30 feet long and blackish all over. Its head was like a sheep's, only bigger. The creature's neck was long and slender.

Sir David Hunter-Blair was 83 years old. He had lived near Loch Ness for 50 years. Once he had been a monk at the Fort Augustus monastery. In 1937 he decided to try his hand at monster-hunting.

He invited a group of schoolboys to help him. They searched for the beast but found nothing. But in June two of Sir David's students had better luck.

Andrew Smith and Anthony Considine had been in a boat on the loch. They looked out behind the boat and saw three strange objects in the wake. The objects looked like eels or large lizards. But each creature had a neck and four flippers or legs. They were about three

feet long and dark grey.

Could these have been baby Loch Ness monsters? To this day, no one really knows.

There was another unusual sighting the same month. John MacLean was standing at the mouth of a stream on the loch's north side. He was getting ready to go fishing. The next moment the neck and head of the monster appeared 20 yards away.

"It was in the act of swallowing food," MacLean reported afterward. "It opened and closed its mouth several times quite quickly. Then it kept tossing its head backwards." He added the beast acted like a bird that is eating fish.

The creature's head looked like a sheep's head without any ears. The eyes were narrow and oval-shaped. All at once it dived. Then two humps and a tail came into view. There were no fins or legs. The monster's skin was dark and shiny like a horse's hide.

The creature surfaced again farther out. It looked about 20 feet long. Then it was gone again.

This was the first time anyone had reported seeing the monster eating. Most experts believe it eats mostly salmon and trout. The loch does not hold much plant life. If Nessie is to stay alive she would have to live off fish.

Another sighting was made by Captain William Brodie on August 30, 1938. Captain Brodie was the skipper of a tugboat called

Arrow. The tug was travelling near the shore when a hump appeared in the water. Then Brodie saw a second hump. The monster dived, but it came up 10 minutes later. This time there were seven humps showing. They were moving very rapidly near the boat. The crew also saw the humps.

Captain Brodie was sure the object was not a whale. "I did not believe in the monster," he said. "I had not been looking for it. There can be no doubt of the monster's existence.

In 1942 **Time** magazine said, "No monster can live forever." **Time** made that comment after a 24-foot basking shark had been found on the loch's shore. "This was obviously the Loch Ness monster," **Time** went on. "This is obviously the monster's end."

There were very few sightings in the 1940's. In 1948 a group of U.S. newsmen went on a tour of Loch Ness. The creature did not show itself at all.

"When does the monster appear?" one reporter asked a Scottish official.

"Just before the tourist season begins," the official answered.

This gives a good idea of what some people thought of Nessie. She was just a tourist attraction to them.

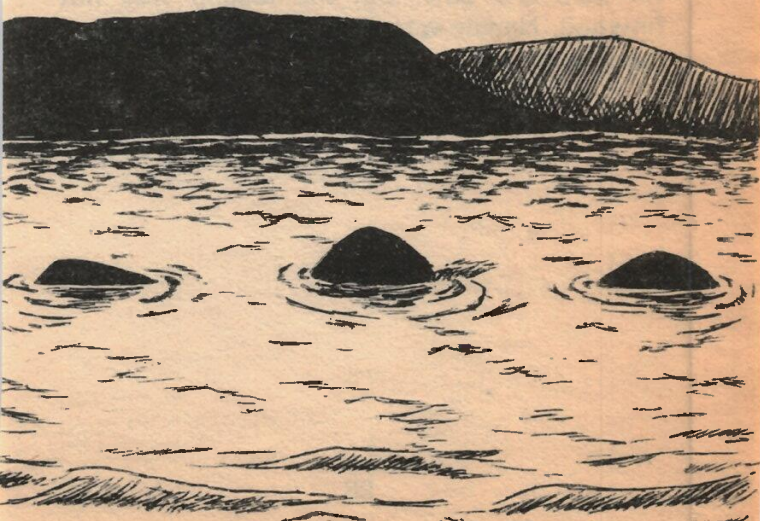
In 1951 Lachlan Stuart went out to milk his cows one morning. He saw something out on the loch and hurried to get his camera. Stuart snapped a picture of three triangle-shaped

humps about 50 yards away. Then a head and neck rose and sank a few times. But Stuart could not photograph this part of the scene. His camera had stopped working.

Some scientists thought Stuart's photo showed a group of otters. Others believed the humps were really shadows. Once again, a photograph failed to convince modern science that the creature exists.

David Slorach got a look at Nessie one morning in 1954. He saw an odd object about 400 yards out in the lake. "It looked like a rounded body on stilts," he recalled. Slorach said the object was like "two storks standing on a rock in the water."

Next it looked like a tree trunk. Then the



In 1951, Lachlan Stuart snapped a picture of these three humps in the loch near his farm.

object made Slorach think of "a china cat with a long neck." He saw four black streaks on the beast's neck. These streaks were what had looked like stork legs. "The rest of the object was a curious dead white color," Slorach said.

A moment later he saw another dark object. Suddenly the two objects were moving. They threw up a large wave behind them. Slorach checked their speed with the speedometer in his car. The objects were travelling faster than 35 miles per hour!

Slorach wondered about the things he had just seen. Could the objects have been towed by an unseen motorboat? But he knew that could not be the answer. He had not heard the sound of a motor.

The creature made few appearances during the 40's and 50's. But the legend was not finished. Nessie was getting ready to make a comeback.

Chapter Six

SEARCH

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson sat quietly in a boat in Loch Ness. The great detective and his assistant were with a lovely woman named Gabrielle. They were waiting for something to appear.

And appear it did. All at once the water began to foam. A horned head and long neck came out of the depths. The great body made a wake. It caused the small boat to rock wildly. The next moment Holmes, Watson and Gabrielle were thrown into the water. They disappeared under the surface.

Was this the end of the famous investigator and his friend? Not really.

This scene never took place in real life. Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson and Gabrielle were only actors. The "monster" was really a giant model. They were all performing for a movie camera. The motion picture "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" was being filmed at Loch Ness. The scene was showing a meeting between the world's best-known detective and the world's best-known monster.

The model monster met a sudden end. It was being towed across the lake when it broke loose and sank. All of this happened in 1969. This fake Nessie still lies on the bottom of Loch Ness.

But before the fake Nessie sank in 1969 there had been a new string of sightings.

A full-time monster-hunter named Torquill MacLeod spotted the beast in February, 1960. He used binoculars to get a better look.

MacLeod saw a large gray-and-black object on the far shore of the loch. There was an odd narrow thing on the front of the object. It looked like a big elephant's trunk. It moved back and forth in the air. It seemed to be looking for something on the shore.

There was a flipper on each side of the strange animal. MacLeod could not see a tail. He watched the beast for eight minutes. Then it turned around and flopped into the water.

MacLeod believed the creature was nearly 50 feet long.

This was a remarkable sighting. It was an important one, too. It was one of the few times the monster had been seen on land in 25 years.

Movies of Nessie were taken two months later by Tim Dinsdale. He had been watching the loch at sunrise. Just as he was leaving to have breakfast he caught sight of a hump. He watched it through his binoculars first. Then he filmed it with his movie camera. The hump was reddish-brown. It moved in a zig-zag

pattern and left a large wake. Then it sank from view.

Dinsdale knew people might say the hump was really a boat. So he filmed a boat moving across the loch, too. When people looked at both films they would be able to see the difference.

England's Royal Air Force photo experts later studied the film. Their results showed the hump was not a submarine or a boat. They said it was probably a large, living object. It was over 90 feet long and six feet wide. It was moving at 10 miles per hour. This was an interesting picture of a monster.

In 1962 something new was added. A company was formed to track down and identify Nessie. It was called the Loch Ness Phenomena Investigation Bureau. Phenomena are unusual and unexplained things or happenings. This company intended to explain any mysteries the loch might hold.

In October the Bureau made its first investigation. They were sure the monster was active at night. After dark the investigators patrolled Loch Ness in boats equipped with searchlights. The lights were aimed at the surface of the water. It was hoped the beast might be interested in the bright beams and come up for a look.

Something did come up on October 19th. The members of the Bureau saw an object like a giant finger rise from the surface. It was six

to eight feet long.

Later the searchlights picked up a large round object in the darkness. Another time, the members noticed a great number of salmon and trout jumping in the loch. Then they saw the back of some giant creature moving after the fish. The Bureau believed this was part of a pattern. Fish would come together in large groups to feed. The monster then would move in on the fish.

The Bureau used many tricks and devices in their hunt. Microphones were set up underwater to catch any sounds the monster might make. An aircraft like a helicopter hovered over the loch for a look from above. Once a small submarine was even sent into the water to help the search. Cameras with long-range lenses were set up at different spots around the loch. These camera stations were operated by many volunteers who worked for no pay.

But clear pictures of the monster were still hard to get. This was because many sightings were made at night or in fog.

The next year the Bureau tried using dynamite blasts to draw out the creature. In 1933 there had been a lot of blasting being done to build the road. There was also a huge number of sightings at that time. The Bureau hoped the same noises and vibrations would work again. They didn't.

A different expedition hunted the monster in 1968. This group came from an English univer-

sity. The tool they used in their search was sonar.

Sonar sends out waves of sound through the water. If the sound waves hit an object, they bounce off. The waves then come back to the point where they were sent out.

Sonar measures the time it takes for the sound waves to come back. Scientists can then figure out how far away the object is. Submarines use sonar to locate ships and other things in the water.

The university group set up a sonar device on a pier. The sonar sent out sound waves across the loch. If anything moved past that area, it would interrupt the sound waves. This would be shown on a display screen on the pier.

The sonar picked up two unusual objects in two weeks. One object was more than 15 feet long and moved at 1500 feet per minute. When it dived, its speed was 450 feet per minute. Scientists knew of no fish that could move like that. The group was sure this was the Loch Ness monster.

The second sonar trace showed something 164 feet long. It was rising from the bottom of the loch at a speed of 100 feet per minute. This object was unusually interesting. The Bureau believed it was not just one object, but several separate ones moving together. Did this mean there was a family of Loch Ness monsters down there? The idea of a Papa Monster, a

Mama Monster and several Baby Monsters was exciting. But the university group had no photographs of those sonar findings to use as proof.

The Loch Ness Phenomena Investigation Bureau came back into the hunt in 1969. This time, an American scientist named Roy Mackal was working with the Bureau. Mackal had an unusual idea. He hoped to get a sample of the monster's body tissues. He planned to study the sample to find out what kind of animal Nessie is. This kind of tissue sampling is called a biopsy.

Mackel had designed a special device like an arrow that would hold his biopsy instrument. The arrow would be fired at the monster. The biopsy instrument at the end would cut a tiny section from the monster's skin.

One problem was left. How could they get close enough to the beast to fire the arrow? The Bureau came up with the solution. They would use a submarine.

Another American named Dan Taylor had built a 20-foot sub called the Viper Fish. Taylor was eager to help the Bureau find the monster. But the first time he put the sub in the loch, it sprang a leak.

The leak was soon repaired and the sub was returned to the water. Immediately the Viper Fish sprang a brand new leak.

Finally the submarine was back in the loch. But there was one more surprise. Once again,

the darkness of the water made it difficult to see anything. Taylor complained that he could only see 12 inches in front of him. The Bureau went back to using their regular methods. Taylor went back to the drawing board.

The Bureau tried something else that autumn. They worked with a British television company to try a new way of finding the creature. They used a balloon equipped with a camera to take photos of the loch from overhead. This method did not work any better than the others.

The Bureau was not discouraged. They were positive there was an unknown animal in Loch Ness. So far, all of the different scientific ideas and devices had failed to prove it. But the Bureau and other dedicated monster-hunters were not ready to give up.

Chapter Seven

DR. RINES INVESTIGATES

Lloyd's of London is the most famous insurance company in the world. It has insured almost everything you can imagine. In 1970 Lloyd's issued one of its most unusual policies ever. It insured two men named Ullrich and Strong against being injured by the Loch Ness monster. Ullrich and Strong were determined to track Nessie down.

Monster-hunting was going strong again. Expeditions were going regularly to Loch Ness every summer.

Tim Dinsdale was now in charge of surface photography for the Loch Ness Phenomena Investigation Bureau. Dinsdale had filmed the reddish-brown hump in 1960. He saw the creature again in 1971.

Dinsdale was steering his boat across the loch that day. "I spotted a black, snakelike object rear above the water," he said. The beast held that pose for several seconds. Dinsdale was so shocked he did not even think to take a picture. The monster dived, came up again and vanished. Another chance for a clear

photograph was lost.

Practical jokes continued to surprise people. A Scottish zoo official played a trick on his monster-hunting friends on April Fool's Day, 1972. He dumped a frozen elephant seal in the loch where they would find it. His friends did find it and put it in their truck. Their plan was to rush it to the nearest zoo. On the way, they were chased by the police and stopped for speeding. The monster-hunters awkwardly explained the situation. The police escorted the seal and the hunters to the nearest town. There, the animal was properly identified.

Frank Searle had given up his job in 1969. He had come to Loch Ness to spend all of his time watching for the monster. In 1972 Searle took several photos of the creature. The pictures showed a humped body and a long neck. A small head was visible. One of the pictures seemed to show the beast's mouth wide open. Scientists studied these photographs and shook their heads. This was another case where experts were not convinced by photographs.

Photography seemed to be failing to present solid evidence of Nessie's existence. In August of 1972 a man named Robert H. Rines was preparing to set the scientific world on its ear. And he would do it with photographs.

Rines was a lawyer from Boston. He also knew about radar and sonar. In 1963 he had helped form the Academy of Applied Science.

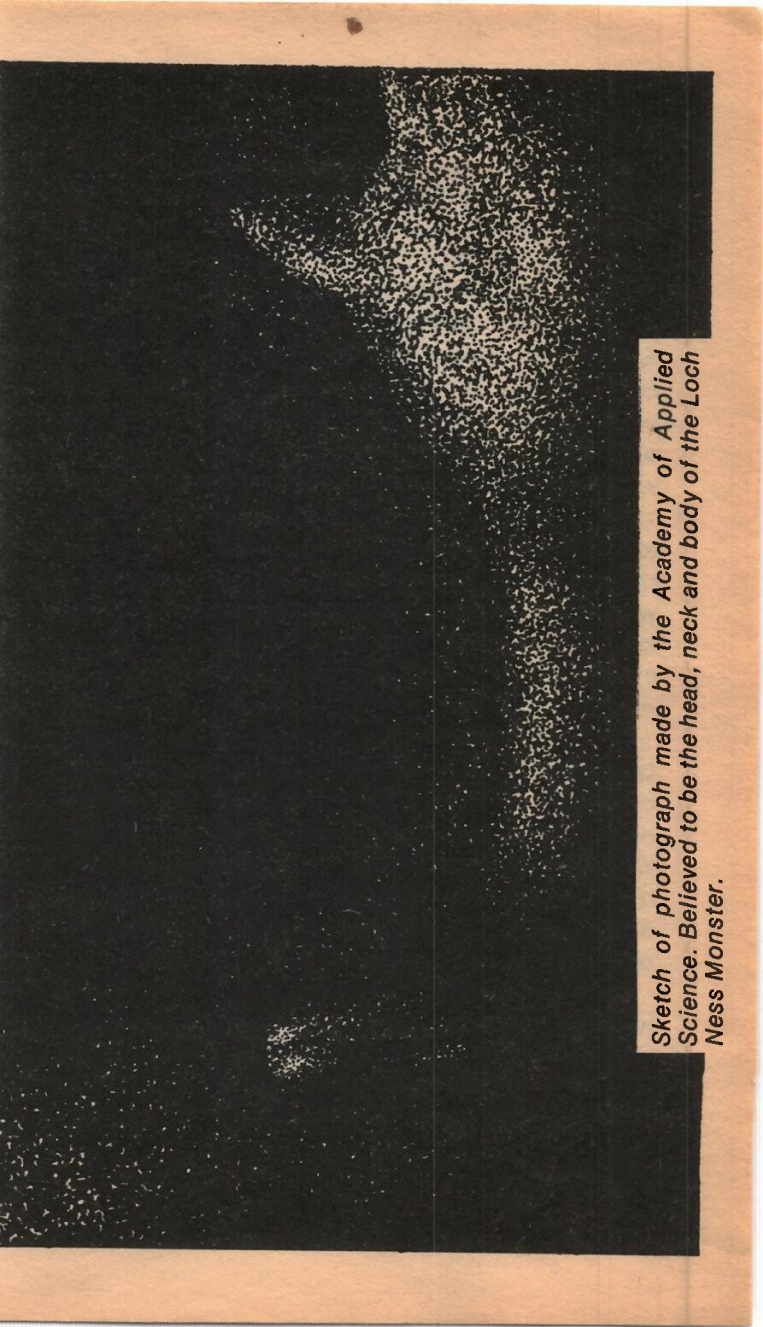
The Academy's purpose was to support unusual areas of scientific research. Another member of the Academy would one day search for Bigfoot.

Rines had been on expeditions to Loch Ness since 1970. On the first trip a large unknown object had rubbed noisily against Rines' underwater microphones. Sonar had shown objects 40 times bigger than fish moving in the water. The next year he had watched a huge hump 20 feet long and six feet high move across the loch. He also began to experiment with cameras. So far, Rines had found nothing that hadn't been seen before.

Now in 1972 he had a 16-mm camera and a sonar device. This time his search of the loch would turn out differently.

Rines and his assistants set up their equipment in Urquhart Bay on the loch's north side. They placed the sonar device on the bottom 35 feet below the surface. They set up a camera and strobe light in front of the sonar in 45 feet of water. If anything came into the path of the sonar beam, the camera would automatically start taking pictures. The strobe light would allow the object to be seen even in the dark water.

On August 8th, the camera snapped two photos of a blurry shape in the loch. At a laboratory in California, a computer sharpened up the images on the film. A strange object with four slanted sides appeared on the



*Sketch of photograph made by the Academy of Applied
Science. Believed to be the head, neck and body of the Loch
Ness Monster.*

photographs. It looked like the flipper of some large animal.

Rines was excited. This was the first time the monster had been photographed underwater. Rines' photos got the same careful study by scientists that earlier pictures had. Not everyone believed it was the fin of Nessie. Some didn't believe it was a fin at all. But the British Museum of Natural History said the photographs were genuine. They believed the object was a flipper. But they didn't know what kind of animal it belonged to.

Rines returned to Scotland to study the loch for the next two years. In 1973 the cold water of the loch damaged his camera. In 1974, the workmen dropped and broke his camera system while setting it in the loch. These two expeditions were failures.

1975 was to be different.

When Rines arrived at Loch Ness that year, two other experts were with him. One was Harold E. Edgerton, the inventor of the strobe light. A strobe is like a super flashbulb. It produces short flashes of extremely bright light. This light would help cut through the dark water of the loch and improve underwater photography.

The second man was Charles Wyckoff. He had designed the special film used on the moon by the Apollo astronauts.

This year Rines was using an improved camera-sonar system. Edgerton and Wyckoff

had helped him develop it. In 1972 he had used only one camera and one strobe light in trying to get photographs of the monster. Now Rines was using two cameras and two strobes. Like before, he used a sonar unit, too.

Once again, the equipment was set up in Urquhart Bay. One camera-and-strobe unit was placed on the bottom of the loch in 80 feet of water. The sonar device was set up next to this unit.

The other camera-strobe combination was hung from an anchored boat on the surface. The strobe and camera were attached to a metal frame. The frame dangled by a cable 40 feet under the boat.

This time, he didn't have long to wait.

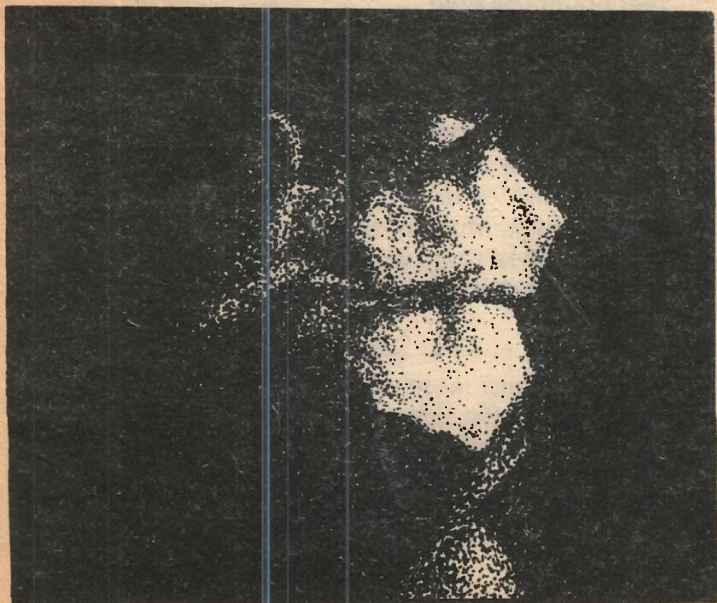
At 4:32 A.M. on June 20, 1975, the upper camera got a photograph of what looked like a large animal. The picture seemed to show a short, stubby body. The body had a fin sticking out on one side. Above that was a long, curving neck. Much of the neck was covered by shadow. Then there was what appeared to be a head and mouth at the end. The rest was lost in darkness.

That was not the end of the pictures. Later on, something large seemed to have attacked the camera. On the same roll of film, there were several pictures of the bottom of the boat. The camera had to have swung upwards to do that. The camera-and-strobe unit weighed 75 pounds. Only something very large and strong

could knock against the unit that hard.

There was one more remarkable photograph later in the roll. Something must have attacked the camera again. First, there were more shots of the loch's surface and the bottom of the boat. Then there was a photograph of a strange, hazy image. The image was rough and jagged-looking. It was wide at the top and narrow at the end. It looked like it could be the front of the head of some unknown beast.

Rines was sure the camera had captured the face of the Loch Ness monster.



Sketch of a 1975 photo taken underwater by the Academy of Applied Science. Some people believe this picture shows Nessie "smiling" for the camera.

Chapter Eight

THE HUNT CONTINUES

Robert Rines and his monster pictures caused quite a stir in the world outside of Loch Ness. There was a great deal of studying and arguing over the two photographs.

Charles Wyckoff and Rines studied the pictures carefully for weeks. They examined the photograph of the body, neck and head. They estimated that the part of the body in the photo was at least 20 feet long. They were sure the photo didn't show the whole creature. They thought the entire body would be 30-45 feet in length.

Then Rines and Wyckoff looked at the photograph of the "face." They guessed the head was about two feet long. They thought the neck to be about 1 1/2 feet thick. Rines believed the snapshot showed two horns about 10 inches apart.

They were sure they had photographs of the Loch Ness monster. Proving it was something else.

Rines showed the photos to two magazines. At first each one wanted to print the pictures.

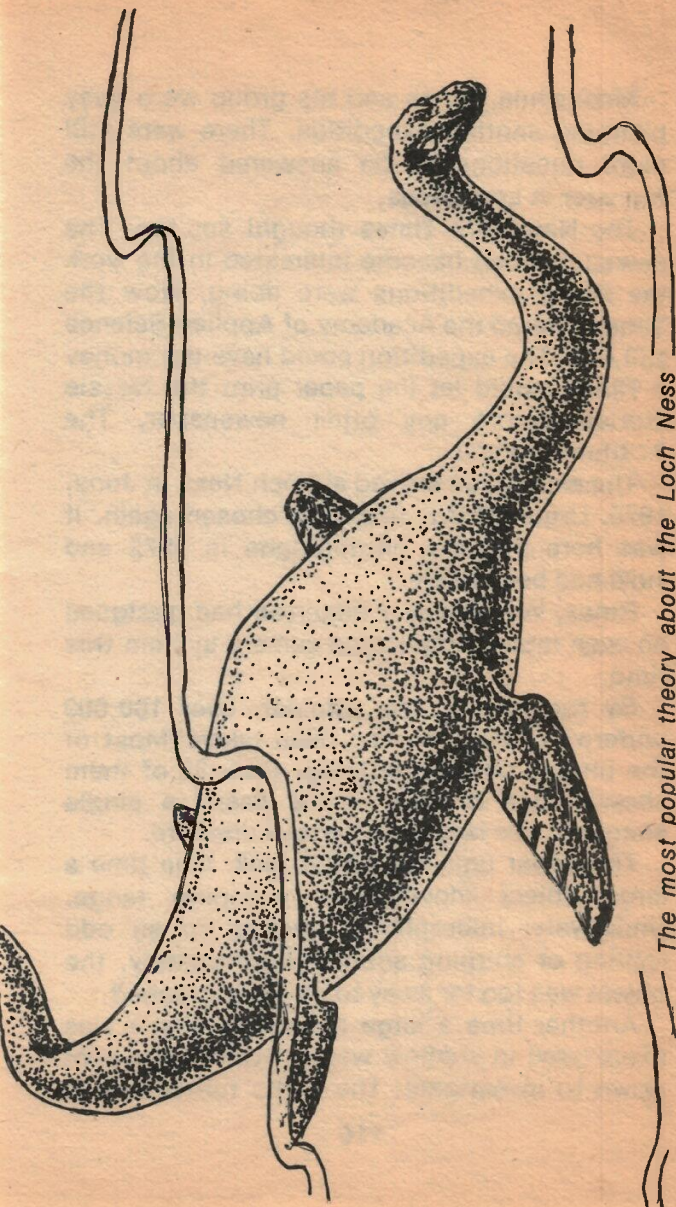
Then both magazines decided not to.

Then scientists at the British Museum of Natural History studied the pictures. They said that neither of the photos was clear enough to prove anything. One scientist said the picture of the face made him think of a horse. Another felt it was part of a tree.

The newspapers reported other ideas. Someone was sure one of the pictures showed a Viking ship. Another said the head photo looked like a diver with his mask on backward. A librarian in Scotland was positive he recognized what was in the snapshots. He said they showed the model monster that sank during the filming of the Sherlock Holmes movie.

Finally some scientists began to take a more serious look at the photos. Some of them began to believe there really might be something unusual in Loch Ness. After all, someone had finally photographed the creature at close range. Also, the shape of the neck, body and fin in the "whole-body" photo matched many earlier descriptions of Nessie.

A general idea began to form among a number of scientists. There seemed to be something in the loch, all right. But it did not appear to be any animal or reptile already known to science. If that was true, then what was it? Could it be something from the past, like a pleisosaur? Or was it something that science has never even heard of?



The most popular theory about the Loch Ness monster is that it is a Plesiosaur. This prehistoric reptile was thought to be extinct 65 million years ago.

Meanwhile, Rines and his group were busy planning another expedition. There were still more questions to be answered about the monster in Loch Ness.

The New York **Times** thought so, too. The newspaper had become interested in the work the Rines expeditions were doing. Now the **Times** offered the Academy of Applied Science \$20,000. The expedition could have the money if Rines would let the paper print the Nessie stories before any other newspaper. The Academy agreed.

The expedition arrived at Loch Ness in June, 1976. Urquhart Bay had been chosen again. It was here that the photographs in 1972 and 1975 had been made.

Rines, Wyckoff and Edgerton had designed an even more complicated camera system this time.

By the end of the summer, over 100,000 underwater pictures had been taken. Most of the photos showed nothing. Only 33 of them showed fish or eels. There wasn't a single snapshot of a large, mysterious creature.

The sonar unit had better luck. One time a large object moved into scanning range. Underwater microphones picked up an odd rattling or chirping sound. Unfortunately, the object was too far away to be photographed.

Another time a large hump-like shape was discovered in shallow water. Divers were sent down to investigate. The hump turned out to

be made of clay. Wyckoff wondered if perhaps the clay was covering an animal carcass. They never found out.

Sonar also located a group of objects arranged in circles. These strange formations were on the bottom at the north end of the loch. Rines and his group later found out the objects were stones. Another such stone formation was discovered in deeper water. These rock patterns seemed to have been made by men thousands of years ago.

The expedition stumbled across almost everything **but** the monster. The Academy members were disappointed, but not discouraged.

In 1977, Rines and other members were back at the loch. But Nessie seemed to be absent again. No photographs of the monster were taken. This was another disappointing expedition.

1978 was not much different. A few underwater pictures of the beast were made. But the peat-stained water made the photos dark and blurred.

Members of the Academy of Applied Science now believed that there was probably not just one Nessie. They felt there may be as many as 30 large creatures in Loch Ness!

The expedition party returned to the United States. For three years in a row they had failed to pry loose any more of Nessie's secrets. She seemed to have showed them a flipper in 1972.

She seemed to have posed full-length and smiled for the camera in 1975. Since then she had appeared as nothing more than a dark shape on a sonar chart.

Through the years, the attempts to find the monster had been impressive. Still cameras, movie cameras and television cameras had all searched for the beast in the murky loch. Sonar and computers had helped in the hunt, too. Now it seemed Nessie had slipped back into hiding. Was there anything left that could help bring her out again?

Chapter Nine

THE LOCH NESS MYSTERY

Two flashing gray forms broke the surface of the water and rose into the air. Their shining bodies made a graceful curve as they leaped. Then they dropped into the blue-green water with a great splash.

The sleek, gray shapes were not Loch Ness monsters rising out of the loch in someone's nightmare. They were dolphins. And they were not swimming in the murky darkness of Loch Ness. They were training in the world's largest dolphin pool. It is called the Theater by the Sea in the Florida Keys.

The dolphins' names were Susie & Sammy. They were being trained for an unusual mission. They were going to hunt down the Loch Ness monster.

The Academy of Applied Science had a new idea in their search for Nessie. They planned to strap cameras to the bodies of the dolphins. The Academy hoped the animals would be able to track the monster. The cameras would then make pictures of the beast.

There was one problem. Dolphins are marine

animals. They live in salt water. Loch Ness is a freshwater lake. It also has a temperature that is lower than the dolphins are used to.

Dolphin experts learned of the Academy's plan. They were concerned for the animals' safety. A Boston newspaper ran a story that contained their protests.

But Rusty Nielsen had an answer. Nielsen owns Sammy and Susie and is also their trainer.

"The dolphins will be in a saltwater, heated and filtered habitat," Nielsen said. "It will have a small holding pool attached to it which will have loch water in it."

Susie and Sammy would be put in the loch-water pool for short periods of time. During that time, Nielsen explained, they would be carefully watched. The dolphins would be checked to see if they were suffering from any bad effects from the fresh water.

Nielsen said that the dolphins would not actually go into the loch until he was sure they were healthy and normal. "If there are any problems," he added, "we'll scrap the project immediately."

Can Susie and Sammy really find the Loch Ness monster? "I know what my animals can do and I trust them," Rusty Nielsen said proudly. "I think if anything's got a shot at it, they do."

By the middle of the summer of 1979, the dolphins would be on their way to Scotland.

Another chapter in the search for the creature in the loch would begin.

The story of the monster in Loch Ness has been going on for almost 15 centuries. There have now been at least 10,000 sightings of the beast. About one-third of that number have been recorded in newspapers, magazines, books or letters. The legend shows every sign of continuing for quite some time.

Why has Nessie captured the interest of so many people for so long? What makes the creature in the loch such a long-lasting legend?

The answer is probably a mixture of fact and imagination.

Thousands of people have reported seeing a strange creature in Loch Ness. But some scientists say that people will think they see a thing if they want to see it badly enough. Did all those people imagine things?

A number of photographs have been taken of something in the loch. Disbelievers insist it's not the Loch Ness monster. But some scientists believe the pictures show some kind of large, living creature. They're just not sure what it is.

The facts tell us there is probably an unusual animal in Loch Ness. Imagination makes us want to find out for sure.

People have a fascination for the things they fear. Many legendary creatures have been popular for this reason. The terrifying

appearances and savage actions of these beasts have made them popular.

Nessie is a gentle monster. She darts away when humans come near. Only a few of the oldest tales about her mention any acts of violence. Most stories describe the beast as shy and elusive. Maybe Nessie's gentle nature is part of the reason people have been fascinated by her for so long.

"Niseag" is the word the people of Scotland have for the monster. Her home is the land of bagpipes, kilts and castles. It is the land of rocky hills and deep, misty lakes. Nessie is a legend in a land of legends.

What if the mystery of the Loch Ness monster was solved someday? There are some people who would be disappointed to see Nessie found and identified. It would mean the end of imagining and guessing about her. After all, isn't the wondering half the fun of a mystery?

TABLE OF IMPORTANT SIGHTINGS OF THE LOCH NESS MONSTER

DATE	OBSERVER'S NAME	DESCRIPTION	IMPORTANCE
Apr. 14, 1933	Mr. / Mrs. John Mackay	From their car on new loch road, saw monster swimming and submerging.	First important press account of a sighting of monster.
July 22, 1933	Mr. / Mrs. Geo. Spicer	Spotted body & neck of monster as it crossed loch road 200 yd. ahead of their car.	First recorded sighting of monster on land.
Nov. 12, 1933	Hugh Gray	Photographed unusual object moving in Loch Ness.	First photo of creature claimed to be Loch Ness Monster.
Jan. 5, 1934	Arthur Grant	While on motorcycle, encounter- ed monster on loch road at night.	Second major land sighting; first recorded full-body description.

Apr. 1, 1934	R. Kenneth Wilson	Shot 2 pictures of monster from slopes above loch.	Classic photo of monster.
Apr. 23, 1960	Tim Dinsdale	Filmed reddish-brown hump moving through water.	First important moving pictures of monster.
Aug. 8, 1972	Underwater cameras set up by Academy of Applied Science.	Unmanned cameras took photo of object that appeared to be a flipper.	First close-up look at part of monster's body
June 20, 1975	Underwater cameras set up by Academy of Applied Science.	Unmanned cameras snapped photo of what looked like head, neck & body of monster; also photographed what is claimed to be monster's face.	First glimpse of monster's body and head at close range.

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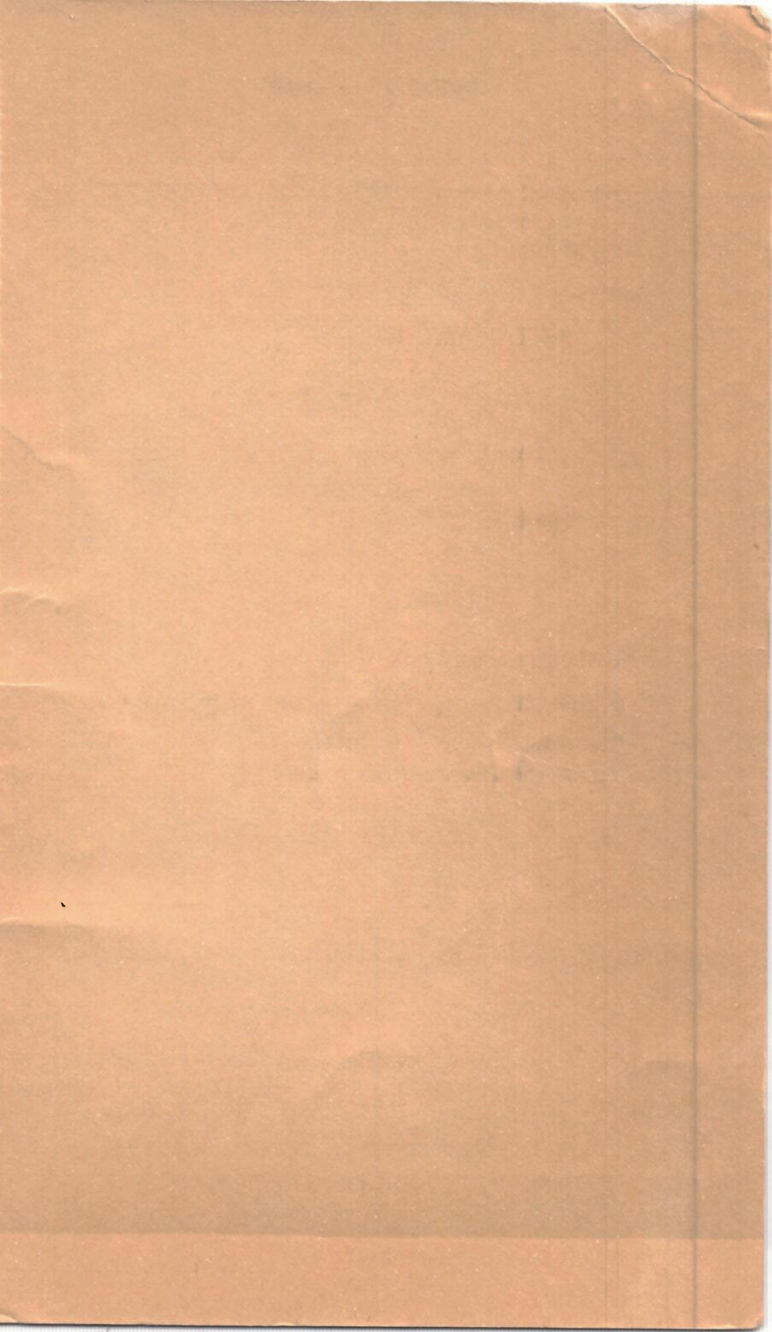
Name _____

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IN THE MOUNTAINS AND WOODS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.....There's a monster on the loose. The creature walks on two feet, just like a human being. The monster is covered with hair from head to toe. Some call it dangerous. Some call it friend. Everyone calls it Bigfoot.

IN THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS.....There's a monster in the dark waters of Loch Ness. Some have seen her as a huge, black hump moving across the loch. To the people of Scotland she is "the Beast". The world knows her as the legendary Loch Ness Monster, "Nessie".